

Bush cites progress towards summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Friday there has been "modest progress" towards a summit meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev following settlement of a dispute that had held up ratification of a treaty to reduce conventional forces in Europe. The summit had been scheduled for Moscow from Feb. 11-12 but was postponed due to preoccupation with the Gulf war and the superpowers' inability to settle their last remaining differences on a treaty to slash long-range nuclear weapons by about one-third. That accord, known as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), was in turn held up by the dispute over non-nuclear force limits in Europe. The settlement of the European forces issue, disclosed Thursday, clears the way for renewed efforts to complete the START and reschedule the summit. Friday morning, Mr. Bush told reporters that there still was no date set for the summit. But when asked if Secretary of State James Baker had made any progress towards setting it up during his recent visit to the Soviet Union, Mr. Bush replied, "modest progress." The progress was first revealed after a meeting between Mr. Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh that focused primarily on Middle East issues.

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Five Iraqi police wounded in Zakho

ZAKHO (R) — Five Iraqi policemen were wounded, three seriously, when gunmen attacked Zakho police headquarters with a grenade and machinegun, the mayor of the town said Friday. Daoud Hassan Suleiman said the assailants attacked late on Thursday shortly before Iraq withdrew all but a token force of police from the town under a demand from the United States and allied soldiers who are setting up "safe havens" in the region for Kurdish refugees.

U.N. soldiers leave Cyprus for Kuwait

NICOSIA (R) — A further 80 Austrian and Danish peacekeeping soldiers left Cyprus for Kuwait Friday to join a United Nations force patrolling the Iraq-Kuwait border, a U.N. spokesman said. Two companies, totalling 230 men from the 2,300-strong United Nations force on Cyprus (UNFICYP), will be in the Gulf. An advance party of 70 peacekeepers left Cyprus Thursday and the remaining 80 soldiers will fly to Kuwait on Saturday. Unarmed U.N. observers began moving into the Iraq-Kuwait border area Wednesday to replace departing U.S. troops.

Cuomo to attack Bush policies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — New York State Governor Mario Cuomo is preparing a national tour to attack President George Bush's domestic policies and what he calls the president's "fundamental lack of direction." A newspaper reported Friday. But the governor's press secretary says he is just going to travel as he has always done. Mr. Cuomo, often cited as a possible candidate for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination next year, told the Los Angeles Times he will travel to "wherever they will give me a platform." Mr. Cuomo did not say whether he has decided to seek the presidential nomination, but noted that his party has "to get the process started soon."

Yemeni referendum set for next month

SANAA (R) — Yemenis will vote on May 15 and 16 on a new constitution for the country, unified a year ago by the merger of South and North. State radio announced Friday that the dates had been set by presidential decree. It said voters have five more days to register. The presidential council issued a statement on Monday, calling on the people to "cast their votes on the constitution in total freedom." The statement said approval of the new constitution would "definitely revoke all laws or decrees issued by the two sectors before the merger and the setting up of the Yemen Arab Republic contradicting Sharia."

Dutch minister to visit Israel

THE HAGUE (R) — Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek will visit Israel on May 6 and 7 to look at ways in which the European Community can further moves for peace in the Middle East, a government spokesman said Friday. Mr. Van den Broek, whose country assumes the EC presidency on July 1, is seeking to build on discussions which he and two other EC foreign ministers held when they visited the Middle East earlier this year. Apart from meeting Israeli ministers including Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Mr. Van den Broek will have talks with Palestinians who have close links with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

27 million face famine in Africa

LONDON (R) — Twenty-seven million people in Africa — half of them children — now face starvation, the British-based charity Save the Children said Friday. It said it feared the African famine might be neglected because world attention was focused on the plight of Kurdish refugees.

Baker cuts short peace mission, but Bush sees 'reason for optimism'

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. SECRETARY OF State James Baker Friday cut short his latest Middle East peace mission at a crucial point after his mother died. President George Bush said in Washington, however, that there was "reason for optimism" for prospects for peace in the Middle East as a result of Mr. Baker's latest round of talks in the region.

News of his mother's death interrupted a meeting between Mr. Baker and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. "This of course is not the end of his mission," Mr. Shamir's spokesman, Avi Pazner, told reporters.

Mr. Bush said in Washington he spoke to Mr. Baker Friday morning and "the bottom line is there is some reason for optimism."

The mood in Israel, however, was less upbeat. Mr. Baker said before meeting Mr. Shamir that differences on key issues remained.

Israeli foreign ministry officials said the two sides had earlier agreed on five points regarding a regional peace conference. There was no confirmation of this from the Americans.

Mr. Baker left for his home town, Houston, Texas, where his mother Bonnie Baker, 96, lived. Her death cut short 3½ hours of talks with Mr. Shamir in which Mr. Baker hoped to bridge wide differences between Israelis and Arabs on the format of a regional peace conference.

"Mr. Baker received the news of his mother's death in a telephone call which arrived in the middle of his talks with the prime minister," Mr. Pazner said.

"He went into another room and spoke with his sister in the United States and decided on the spot to return to the United States."

The secretary of state left without speaking to reporters. Mr. Pazner said nothing had been agreed in the meeting with Mr. Shamir because of the interruption.

Mr. Baker, who returned to Israel from the Soviet Union on Thursday, cancelled meetings with Palestinian leaders and Defence Minister Moshe Arens. It was his fourth visit to Israel since the beginning of March.

Mr. Baker told reporters after an earlier meeting with Foreign Minister David Levy that his peace mission was still alive despite crucial differences with Israel.

Foreign ministry officials said Mr. Baker and Mr. Levy had agreed on five points but had not discussed two questions threatening to torpedo Mr. Baker's efforts — a role for the United Nations and the composition of a Palestinian delegation to a peace conference.

"There are still some things that we have to reach agreement on and we will be continuing," Mr. Baker told reporters after meeting Levy for two hours.

The Israeli officials told reporters Israel had agreed on five points including the Soviet co-sponsorship with the U.S. of a regional peace conference. Israel expects Moscow first to agree to renew diplomatic ties with the Jewish state.

"The minister has given me some answers to some of the questions that I left here when I departed. Some of those answers I think we can work with. Others we will have difficulty with, quite frankly," Mr. Baker said, standing beside Mr. Levy.

Mr. Baker said he had agreed to keep working with the Israelis "to see if we can create a process that would lead to direct bilateral negotiations between Israel and Palestinians and between Israel

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. to take over allied camps in northern Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations will take over within days the refugee camps established by the United States and its allies in northern Iraq, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Friday.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar met Thursday evening with Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari to discuss the timing of the transfer.

As he entered the United Nations Friday morning, Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters that the U.N. takeover "is more than a possibility. We intend to take over as soon as possible. We are working on it."

"It is a question of days," he added.

A U.S. diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it would probably take weeks to complete the transfer, but that the first U.N. staffers would be at Zakho in days.

Iraq and the allies have agreed that only 50 Iraqi policemen will

remain in the northern town of Zakho. All Iraqi soldiers have left the town, along with most police.

The presence of Iraqi security forces in the Zakho area was deterring the Kurds from leaving their mountain strongholds and going home, U.S. officials said.

The United Nations and Iraq signed an agreement last week that the world body would administer all relief operations in the country. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees has a team in Iraq this week to begin setting up U.N. camps.

On Wednesday, the U.S., French and British expressed concern over the slow pace of U.N. efforts to help the refugees, sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The ambassadors promised to work out ways to reconcile the allied and U.N. relief efforts, eventually putting the Kurdish camps in the north under U.N. control, the sources said.

Mr. Bush, who made his comments during a brief question-

ing session Tuesday that the Kurdish refugee camps the allies are establishing in the Zakho region violate its national sovereignty and formally asked the United Nations to take over the camps.

About 450,000 Iraqi refugees, most of them Kurds, are in Turkey and another 400,000 are at the border, after fleeing the Kurdish rebellion against the Iraqi government.

An estimated one million Shiite and Kurdish Iraqi refugees have fled south and east to Iran and another 500,000 have moved to the southern border area.

The refugees represent about half Iraq's Kurdish population. In Washington, President George Bush said Friday that he was confident Iraq will honour its word to keep its troops out of the Kurdish refugee zone.

Mr. Bush, who made his comments during a brief question-

(Continued on page 5)

Pipebomb injures Israeli soldier

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A pipe-bomb exploded, wounding an Israeli soldier, and troops shot and wounded two Palestinians during protests Friday in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Military officials said the army clamped a curfew on Hebron after the soldier was injured in the blast near the market.

In Nablus, an 11-year-old Palestinian was shot in the head and another resident was shot in the leg during stone-throwing demonstrations, hospital officials said.

The U.N. agency looking after Palestinian refugees said Friday it was concerned about the welfare of its staff in the Gaza Strip amid growing violence and the brutal killing of one of its teachers.

In a statement issued at the Vienna headquarters, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) said the teacher, Mohammad Younis Ghattas, was stabbed 11 times by masked men in broad daylight at an agency-run school in Khan Yunis camp.

Iraq lifts travel ban, disbands Popular Army

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The Iraqi government Friday lifted a ban on travel for Iraqis and disbanded the Baath Party militia, known as the Popular Army, which it had mobilised during the Gulf crisis.

In a dispatch monitored in Nicosia, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said the government also ruled that Iraqis wishing to travel abroad would be allowed to do so as of May 15.

It said President Saddam Hussein had notified the concerned authorities of the decision.

The brief announcement, however, did not say if travellers would still need to obtain exit permits before they are allowed to leave Iraq. These permits, issued by the Interior Ministry, were a requirement for all Iraqis and expatriates wishing to travel out before the travel ban was imposed.

The ban was ordered in the early days of the Gulf crisis when Iraq began mobilising its 17 million population to face the U.S.-led coalition forces that poured into the Gulf after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Since end of the Gulf war and the ensuing rebellion, President Saddam has promised the country democratic reforms.

Earlier this week, the government reached tentative agreement with the Kurds to expand their autonomy in the mountainous region in an effort to end fighting that has displaced two million of Iraq's Kurdish population of 3.5 million people.

A separate announcement on INA said that the ruling Revolutionary Command Council had decreed that the Popular Army is to be disbanded immediately.

Iraq said that the Popular Army had drawn eight million volunteers at the peak of the Gulf crisis.

The Popular Army, originally formed in the 1970s as a militia for the Arab Baath Socialist Party, is an ideological counterweight to the regular army.

Since the Gulf war ceasefire, Iraq has disbanded 15 army divisions and demobilised reserves.

President Saddam Friday appointed the defence minister to restore the country's telephone services, destroyed by the Gulf war.



A scene from Friday's match between Al Faisali and Al Ramtha

FAISALI WINS SIXTH TITLE: Al Faisali Club Friday won its sixth Cup Winners' Cup after defeating Al Ramtha club 3-1 in a match held at Al Hussein Youth City's Stadium as this year's soccer season opened. Al Faisali's goals in the match, which was attended by more than 7,000, were scored by Jirees Tadrus (two) and Firas Al Khalil while Al Ramtha's only goal was scored by Khalid Al Aqqur. The championship is held annually between the winners of the Jordanian

League Championship and the Jordan Cup Championship. Al Ramtha is last year's winner of the Cup Winners' Cup, the Soccer Federation Shield and Jordan's cup championships while Al Faisali is the holder of the league championship for last year. At the end of Friday's match, Youth Minister Khalid Al Karaki handed over the cup to Al Faisali's captain and distributed medals to members of both teams.

Talabani says long talks ahead with government

SHAQLAWA, Iraq (Agencies) — The Kurdish rebel who led autonomy talks with the Iraqi government says key obstacles still stand in the way of an agreement to end the Kurdish rebellion.

"There has been no agreement yet, only the start of negotiations," said Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), on return to rebel headquarters here Thursday night.

Mr. Talabani headed a four-party Kurdish delegation to Baghdad this week that won an agreement in principle from the Iraqi government for increased Kurdish autonomy.

Mr. Talabani said the government had indicated readiness to meet Kurdish demands for "autonomy and a democratic, pluralistic, multi-party society, freedom of expression and respect for human rights."

Mr. Talabani said further talks face three main obstacles: the extent of the territory that would

be autonomous, the extent of self-rule and the region's relations with the outside world.

Disputes over the size of the Kurdish territory and the extent of its independence undermined the 1970 autonomy on which the current talks are based.

Ayatollah Taqi Madaressi said in a statement issued in Damascus that "We cannot put our trust in Saddam Hussein and we refuse to negotiate with the one who has destroyed Iraq and humiliated the Iraqis."

"At the same time, we support any step that would end the catastrophe that has befallen the Iraqis," added Ayatollah Madaressi, head of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

Both Washington and London said they welcomed the agreement in principle and but were awaiting full details of the accord.

Mr. Talabani said the Kurds and the government will meet again next week to present detailed proposals in writing.

"The real negotiations will begin then, when we start discussing each side's concepts of autonomy," he added.

The second round of talks will be led by the other main Kurdish leader, Masoud Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), who did not take part in the initial discussions.

Mr. Barzani's role indicates rare Kurdish unity in the current struggle with Baghdad. He and Mr. Talabani are historic rivals who in the past often quarrelled or fought.

Mr. Barzani said the first round of talks in Baghdad was "very positive... everything is ok so far. You can say I am happy."

Mr. Talabani said the Kurds still have reservations about trusting the government due to the failure of earlier agreements.

But he said the rebel leaders think an agreement would help stem the exodus that has seen two-thirds of Iraq's 3.5 million

(Continued on page 5)

U.N. delays meeting on Iraqi request

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council's Sanctions Committee has postponed, probably until next Tuesday, a meeting to resume consideration of a request by Iraq for permission to sell nearly \$1 billion worth of oil to buy badly needed food and other items.

The committee first took up the Iraqi request last Friday, without reaching any decision, and had been expected to meet again this Friday.

But the meeting was postponed and a member of the Austrian U.N. delegation, which chairs the committee, said it would probably take place next Tuesday.

It is widely believed the Iraqi request will not be approved until or unless Security Council members are satisfied with Baghdad's actions relating to the Kurdish refugees.

The council is also awaiting a satisfactory accounting of Iraq's nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic capability, in accordance with a ceasefire resolution adopted on April 3.

Iraq sent details of these last Friday to the U.N. secretary general and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

But the United States took issue with Baghdad's statement that it had no biological weapons programme and asserted Iraq had omitted key aspects of its nuclear programme.

In a letter dated April 14 to the chairman of the Sanctions Com-

(Continued on page 5)

Velayati visits Mecca after talks with Saud

JEDDAH (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati performed a pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrine at Mecca on Friday, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

Mr. Velayati arrived in Saudi Arabia Thursday for a visit which underscored improved relations between the two Islamic nations following long years of tension and a three-year break in diplomatic ties that were restored March 26.

Mecca had been the centre of the tension since the 1979 Islamic revolution of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

With the warming of relations, Saudi Arabia is now ready to receive 110,000 Iranians at Mecca for this year's Haj in June. No Iranian pilgrims took part in the Haj over the past three seasons.

Saudi Television showed Mr. Velayati exchanging kisses with his host, Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, with whom he held talks late into the night Thursday.

An official statement following the talks said the two ministers "discussed bilateral relations and means of developing them."

Mr. Velayati said on the eve of his visit that Iran seeks a security role alongside the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

But the United States took issue with Baghdad's statement that it had no biological weapons programme and asserted Iraq had omitted key aspects of its nuclear programme.

In a letter dated April 14 to the chairman of the Sanctions Com-

Syria. But they said that the Saudis who dominate the GCC would keep an open mind towards cooperation with Iran.

Iran's coastline runs the entire length of the eastern Gulf. With Oman, it dominates the waterway's strategic gateway at the Strait of Hormuz.

So-called moderates in Iran, headed by President Hashemi Rafsanjani, are seeking better ties with the Saudis as they try to bolster their position as a regional power at the expense of Iraq.

Mr. Rafsanjani is scheduled to visit Syria on Saturday and Turkey on Monday.

The proposed GCC security plan would include the use of tens of thousands of Egyptian and Syrian troops to protect the region from a future crisis like Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Friday named the country's prosecutor-general to lead the Iranian contingent on the pilgrimage to Mecca.

The decree appointing Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri, a former minister of intelligence in charge of internal security, was announced on Tehran Radio.

A headline newspaper suggested Saudi pressure had forced the resignation of Ayatollah Khamenei's first choice for the job — Ahmad Khomeini, son of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Hardliners opposed to President Rafsanjani criticised the resumption of ties with Saudi Arabia, denounced by Iran for inviting U.S. troops after Iraq seized Kuwait.

Tabloid publisher in detention over Petra Bank affair

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Investigations were continuing over the weekend into a case involving a Jordanian weekly tabloid whose publisher was detained on Thursday on charges of seeking to publish material related to the Petra Bank affair.

Dr. Riyadh Hroub, chairman of the board of directors and publisher of the Arabic-language Shihani weekly, was detained in the early hours of Thursday, minutes before this week's edition of the tabloid was to go into print with what was described as an interview with former Petra Bank chairman and general manager Ahmad Chalabi.

It was the first case of a publisher being detained on charges related to publication of material after Jordan adopted a wide liberalisation drive and launched a democratisation process in 1989. It was not immediately clear in the case of Shihani whether the authorities had used martial law provisions, which are still applicable in the case of Petra Bank. But legal experts said there were provisions in the Jordanian civil penal code authorising the government to adopt measures similar to those applied in the case of Shihani.

"Judging from the language of the official announcement of the arrest, there could be a wide range of related charges strictly within the realm of the civil penal code in the case of Shihani," said a leading Jordanian lawyer.

"The authorities do not have to exercise martial law provisions," he said.

Announcing the arrest, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted an official spokesman as saying that Dr. Hroub was detained "on charges of making contact and entering agreements with external parties to publish information which would harm Jordan's economic security and undermine faith in the Kingdom's economy."

The agency said the information which was to be published by Shihani would have adversely affected "the conduct of justice in the case of Petra Bank."

Inquiries are continuing "to unveil the entire case, with all its repercussions in preparation for the prosecution of all those concerned with this case," it added.

Shihani sources said security men raided the weekly's offices in the early hours of Thursday and confiscated documents, computer diskettes and tapes along with films for the new edition in addition to arresting Dr. Hroub.

"These are evidence connected to the investigations," said a senior security source confirming the confiscation. The source would not elaborate on the nature of material that Shihani was supposed to have published.

According to other sources, Shihani was publishing an interview with Mr. Chalabi, who is believed to have set up base in London after leaving the country in early August 1989, a few days after the government's Economic Security Committee (ESC), using martial law powers, ordered the take-over of Petra Bank.

Simultaneously an investigation was also launched into the affairs of the financially troubled institution, which was ordered liquidated after an appointed committee tried to salvage it with help from the CBJ during the next eight months.

The investigation has been completed, and over 100 cases of "gross violation of banking regulations, currency speculation and embezzlement" involving 45 people have been referred to a martial court for trial, said a source close to the probe.

The government, which froze all martial law provisions in early 1990 before drafting new legislation and abolishing military courts altogether last year, has said that cases related to

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هكذا منذ لأصل

Rebuilding of devastated hospital in Karbala gains momentum

Jordanian volunteers lead reconstruction work

By Debbie Lovatt
Special to the Jordan Times

The writer has just returned after a three-week stay in Iraq.

KARBALA'S AL HUSSEIN Hospital used to serve one million people. During the Shiite rebellion which followed the end of the Gulf war the hospital which had survived relatively unscathed throughout the allied aggression was rendered all-but useless.

Beds, equipment, medicines were destroyed; walls inside the wards are pock-marked with bullet holes, some at waist-height implying that patients were shot in their beds. Windows are smashed and there are holes in walls and ceilings from mortar bombs.

Blood-stained rubble has been swept up and retrievable equipment is heaped into cleaned rooms.

Cats creep around the 400-bed building that can now only offer first aid and limited medical assistance for emergency children's cases.

Middle East Action Network (MEAN) has, in the words of Sadallah Atrib, the founder and chairman of MEAN, "adopted the rebuilding and re-equipping of the hospital of Karbala as its first project at a cost of approximately \$2 million to \$2.5 million."

Last week five Jordanian volunteers, all members of MEAN, visited the Shiite Holy City, 90 minutes drive from Baghdad, to deliver donated food, medicines and four generators, and to assess the hospital's requirements.

With the generators, the hospital is the only place in Karbala to have electricity.

The MEAN team was joined by the Gulf Peace Team, Peace Action Network of Japan and the Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT), an India-based organisation. All the groups are involved with the Karbala project and will cooperate with MEAN on its other projects.

One of the MEAN volunteers, Ahmad Abu Zeid, 49, an "electro-mechanical" engineer, said, "It doesn't matter

who destroyed the hospital, the fact is that it has been destroyed and the people are suffering. We feel it is our duty to help the Iraqi people."

Ahmad Najih Rashdan, a civil engineer who graduated from Baghdad University, said: "MEAN chose the Karbala hospital as its first project because the people and officials of Karbala helped the Gulf Peace Team a lot in November and we had to start somewhere."

(The Gulf Peace Team set up an international camp on the Iraq-Kuwait border in a determined effort to avert war and to provoke opposition in their native countries to the use of force to get Iraqi troops out of Kuwait which it occupied on Aug. 2 last year.)

Looking forward to the completion of the Karbala hospital, which is expected to take two months, Mr. Rashdan continued, "This is not the only hospital to be destroyed; it is the same over all of south Iraq, and those that were not destroyed are without equipment, medicines, power supply and even water. Our next plan is to rebuild a Basra hospital, especially because cholera and disease are expected to reach epidemic proportions there."

Cholera is caught through drinking contaminated water. In Basra, where the Shiite rebellion started, residents are forced to use water from the river, or wherever else they can find it. One hundred and fifteen cases of cholera have been confirmed there and four children have died from the disease. Seven cases were reported in Karbala and one child is dead; four confirmed cases in Baghdad and there are many suspected cases in the north.

Abu Zeid, with the other four volunteers nodding in agreement, said: "Even for war there are rules. If you are fighting, you should fight against fighting forces, you shouldn't kill the people by

cutting their power, water and food supply and destroying the sewage system."

The volunteers have taken leave from their jobs in Jordan and are relying on their savings to cover the expenses of their families while they are away.

Mr. Rashdan explained how the project works: "We will work on a temporary basis — for example one month in Iraq, one month in Jordan. We are the first of many engineers who will come. When we are working in Jordan we will also be spending our time contacting people for supplying money, equipment and other aid."

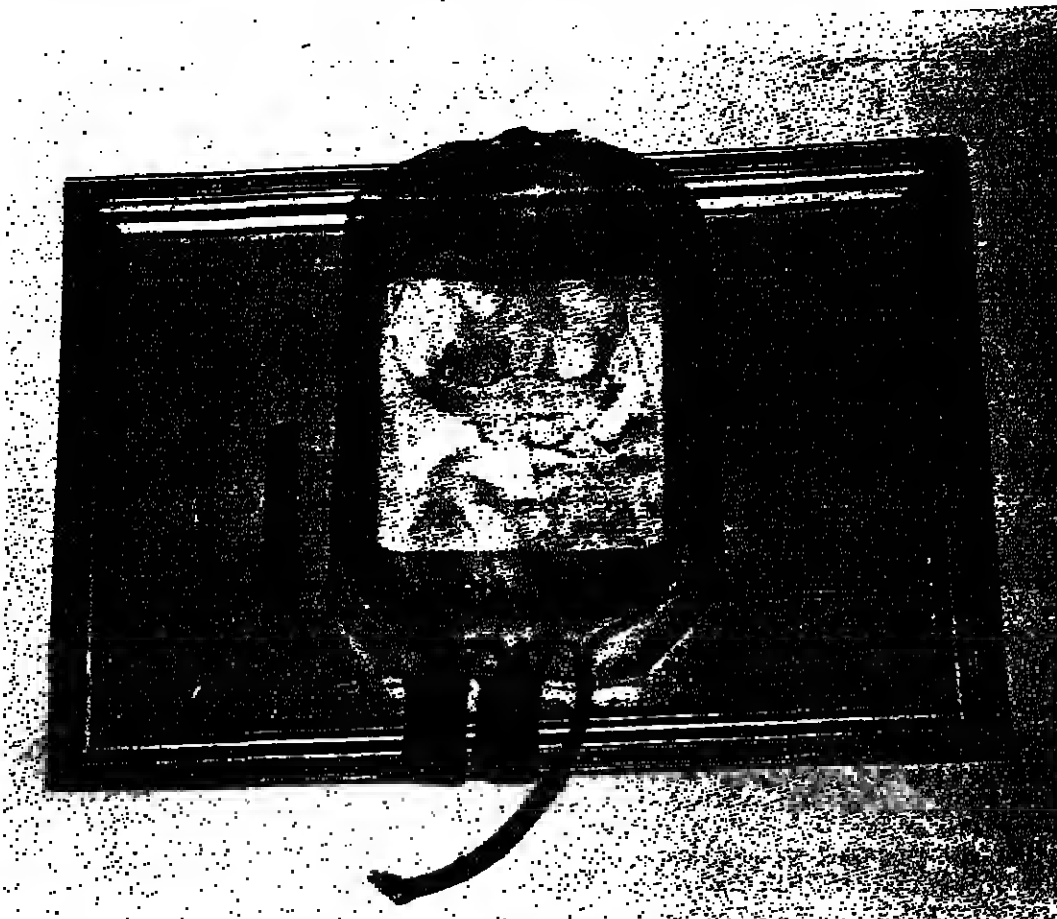
Volunteers, including engineers, technicians and skilled labourers, are expected to be in Iraq after two weeks with supplies of building materials to supplement a truck-load of cement and iron bars, electric cables and fans that was taken to Karbala last week. Work on the hospital will then start in earnest.

"Work will be on the interior of the hospital and the facades, windows, doors, plastering damaged by bullets and explosion, ceilings, floors, air-conditioning and repainting, as well as furniture for the hospital. Luckily the main structure is still intact," said Mr. Rashdan.

Jihad Gbaraibeh said: "The main problem is medical equipment and instruments." Mr. Gbaraibeh, a lawyer, volunteered to go to Iraq with MEAN to see the damage for himself to be better able to motivate professional people like himself to offer material or physical support for the people of Iraq through the network's projects.

"Jordan is a small, poor country. Jordanians have already given what they have, but we are expecting more," said the lawyer.

There is greater urgency to rebuild hospitals and water purification centres in the south of Iraq as the fiery hot summer is almost upon the southern regions whereas the north of the country is cooler and river water cleaner because it is upstream.



A blood bag ripped from the patient hangs on the wall of Al Hussein Hospital in Karbala (photo by Marwan Shahrin)

Speaking at a press conference in Amman Friday, Sadallah urged people everywhere "not to let the people, especially the children of Iraq, feel they are on their own. Help us to help these people have the basic things in life — baby milk, a hospital, drinkable water. Unfortunately they have nothing and it seems that most people overseas are sleeping."

Abu Zeid said: "The hospital requires pumps for water to be pumped to the elevated tanks, and no pumps are working now; they need the air-conditioning system. It is not a luxury. It is required; medical gases are another urgent necessity."

Sadallah said a truck of empty cylinders was expected in Amman soon. It will contain 500 to 1000 empty cylinders

which will be refilled in Amman with oxygen for the hospital, he said.

Ramananda Avadhuta of AMURT told the press conference that his organisation had taken a decision "that whatever is needed we are prepared to accomplish and I don't think there will be any problem finishing the Karbala hospital very soon. After that we will be taking up the hospital of Basra."

The Indian relief worker said AMURT had also decided to sponsor all the children who have lost their parents. "We will take the responsibility and feed them for five years or ten years — whatever is needed," he said.

Pointing to pictures of the hospital, sick and injured children and aid arriving in Karbala, Sadallah said:

"We can help some of these children by sending them overseas to have plastic surgery. In the U.S. they have asked for billions of dollars to stage a war, they got it. We are asking for pennies to give life and I'm sure we will have it because I'm sure there are a lot of good people around the world ready to help. We have a programme to send about 570 injured for treatment abroad: 120 to Germany, 150 to Austria and 300 to Tunisia. Beds have been arranged. We are sponsoring 2,500 children at a rate of \$30 to \$40 a month. We are trying to build some orphanages in Iraq: One in the north, one in the south and we are trying to make knitting factories for widows of Iraq who unfortunately are countless these days."

Carter: Gulf war had no winners but Mideast lost

ATLANTA (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, saying recent damage inflicted in the Middle East will linger for generations, declared on Thursday the Gulf war had few real winners but that the Kurds, Iraq and Kuwait all lost.

Mr. Carter, at a media briefing at his policy centre, also said the Kurdish problem could be solved if Washington devoted a fraction of the effort it made in lining up money for the Gulf war to helping suffering refugees.

"I was against the war ... the Kurdish situation is only one element of a horrendous tragedy for that region," he said.

"Kuwait's been destroyed. The people of Kuwait have no more democracy, no more prospect than they had before the war. Iraq's been destroyed by ... bombing to a pre-industrial age. The aftermath of this war, I think, will take decades or generations to correct the problems caused."

Mr. Carter said he doubted most United Nations members who voted to authorise use of military force to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait thought Iraq would be hit by such massive bombing.

The former president, who had urged a negotiated settlement to get Iraq out of the emirate and supported a regional conference

on the Israel-Palestine conflict, said the Gulf war destroyed Iraqi civilians' ability to feed themselves and wrought havoc on the environment of the Middle East.

"If you balance who won in the war, I don't know who won," Mr. Carter said.

"The Kurds certainly didn't win, and the Iraqis didn't win — maybe the Turks came out a little better and maybe Syria, because they (now) have a closer relationship with the United States."

While the military outcome of the war was "a glorious victory for our nation and the power and strength of our military, the consequences are devastating."

Mr. Carter said it was his impression that President George Bush had encouraged Iraqi Kurds to overthrow the government of President Saddam Hussein and then "stood aloof" when the Kurdish rebellion was suppressed by Baghdad.

"I think President Bush has done well to repair the damage — he has a certain share of the responsibility — and to correct the mistakes he might have made," he said.

Mr. Carter said he hoped Washington would support the new agreement for Kurdish autonomy between Baghdad and Kurdish leaders, withdraw U.S. direct involvement and back an international effort to relieve and



Jimmy Carter

guarantee safety for refugees. "If we devoted two per cent as much effort for ending Kurdish suffering as we did to recruit money to finance the war which cost about \$70 billion, I think the Kurdish problem would be over," he added.

President Bush said Friday that U.S. troops would stay in northern Iraq as long as needed to help Kurdish refugees and he again urged the ouster of President Saddam Hussein.

"They're going to stay there as long as it takes to make sure these refugees are being taken care of, and not a minute longer," Mr. Bush said in reference to the U.S. troops who have set up camps in northern Iraq.

Mr. Bush, speaking at a brief, impromptu news conference after a White House tree-planting ceremony, said he expected no further trouble from Iraqi forces.

Kuwaitis leave emirate rather than stay to rebuild

KUWAIT (R) — Many Kuwaitis can't wait to leave their country less than two months after a massive allied military operation and the Iraqi occupation.

Despite official appeals to stay and help with the mammoth task of reconstruction after the devastation of the Gulf war, many Kuwaitis are planning to go abroad temporarily, or emigrate.

About half the 200,000 citizens who stayed in the tiny emirate during Iraq's seven-month occupation have left since a U.S.-led force recaptured it in late February, Kuwaitis say.

Still more are ready to go. Hundreds queue every day at Kuwait Airways offices seeking tickets while travellers tell of long lines of cars at the border with Saudi Arabia.

"I have been coming here for three days," shouted an angry Kuwaiti woman as a Kuwait Airways official allowed only a handful of customers into the office. "I want a ticket now, I want to go see my children. Can't you understand?" she shouted.

In the coming weeks the oil-rich emirate plans to bring home tens of thousands of its 400,000 citizens still in exile to help in the reconstruction effort.

But officials said many are expected to stay abroad, especially

those with school-age children.

Some Kuwaitis who endured the occupation consider they have paid the state their dues by putting up with the Iraqis and now deserve a break while the authorities battle with restoring water supplies, power, telephones and other services.

Others, on home leave from universities abroad, were trapped when Iraq swept in on Aug. 2 and want to study again. Some want to be reunited with families abroad who fled the occupation and a few said they would rather emigrate to Canada.

Kuwaitis once enjoyed one of the world's highest per capita incomes in a welfare state.

Diplomats say many Kuwaitis are reluctant to tackle the manual work of cleaning up the once-pristine capital. Menial jobs have traditionally been done by armies of Asian and non-Kuwaiti Arab labourers who fled during the occupation.

With the help of expatriate workers, officials say basic services for some 1.2 million people — about half the country's original population — could be restored by September.

"I do not think we are more than 100,000 Kuwaitis now. Everyone has left since the libera-

tion. People needed a break from the Iraqis," said a young government employee.

An older employee said many more would leave next week. "You see, the government announced it will pay us four months salary on Sunday," she said. "The minute the people get the money, they will just leave. I'm going to Cairo," she added.

The new post-war government has called on employees to report for work on Saturday. It warned that those who failed to show up would eventually be fired.

The government earlier announced plans to start bringing home exiled Kuwaitis next month. Kuwait Airways is mounting an airlift from May 11 to bring back up to 75,000 free of charge.

Many Kuwaitis, in line with a long-kept tradition, may stay abroad for the summer. To discourage them from doing so, the government said it would stop paying Kuwaiti exiles monthly allowances as of June.

Since the invasion, Kuwait, drawing from its large foreign investments of about \$100 billion, has been granting Kuwaitis abroad generous amounts of money to pay for rent, food and a comfortable lifestyle.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq denies Baghdad holding Kuwaitis

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq's U.N. envoy on Thursday denied Baghdad was still detaining Kuwaitis abducted during the Gulf war or holding onto Kuwaiti government property. "They (the Kuwaitis) are simply making false claims for reasons of their own but they have not provided proof or evidence," Ambassador Nasser al-Khazali told reporters. "We don't want to see any Kuwaiti face in Iraq, I'll tell you that," he added. Mr. Nasser was speaking after a meeting with Security Council President Paul Nordera of Belgium who questioned him about complaints from Kuwait that Iraq had not accounted for more than 5,000 detainees and some Kuwaiti property. Under Security Council resolutions setting terms for a Gulf ceasefire, Iraq is required to release to the International Committee of the Red Cross all captured war prisoners or citizens from Kuwait or their remains. It is also required to return bank notes, coins and government papers taken to Baghdad after Iraq occupied the emirate on Aug. 2.

War cost may reach \$100 billion

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. cost of the Gulf war may reach \$100 billion and contributions from allies will cover only about half of that, Congress's chief auditor said Thursday. Previous war cost estimates have run as high as \$70.5 billion, but U.S. Comptroller General Charles Bowsher told the Senate Armed Services Committee he believed costs "will ultimately total as much as \$100 billion." He said that includes \$50 billion for raising, equipping and maintaining the 500,000-strong war force; \$40 billion for war operations themselves, and another \$10 billion in other costs including forgiveness of \$7 billion of Egyptian debt in exchange for Egypt's participation in the war. Mr. Bowsher, head of Congress's General Accounting Office, said allies had paid about \$35 billion as of last week of the \$58.5 billion they pledged for U.S. war costs. "Assuming the outstanding pledges of \$19 billion are ultimately received, allied contributions will have covered about half the war's cost," Mr. Bowsher said.

Glaspie said to resign

WASHINGTON (R) — April Glaspie, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq accused of acquiescing to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's plans to invade Kuwait, is resigning from the State Department, CNN reported Thursday. Cable News Network quoted State Department and congressional sources as saying Ms. Glaspie was planning to take a university teaching job. She could not be reached for comment and a State Department spokesman could not confirm the report. "We have heard nothing about that," he said. Ms. Glaspie came under fire after Iraq released a transcript of a July 25, 1990, meeting with President Saddam in which she appeared meek in replying to his intentions to use military force to defend his claims against Kuwait. A week later, Iraq invaded. Ms. Glaspie returned to Washington and for seven months remained silent about what happened. But in March she testified to a congressional committee that she had clearly warned President Saddam that the United States would defend its vital interests. The State Department has refused to make public its official transcript of the meeting with President Saddam, although it claims the Iraqi version is incorrect.

Menem welcomes frigate back from Gulf

BUENOS AIRES (R) — President Carlos Menem gave an emotional welcome to the crew of an Argentine frigate that returned on Thursday from the Gulf after serving in the allied force that fought Iraq. Mr. Menem joined some 2,000 cheering relatives and friends of the 200 men who returned on the Almirante Brown missile-armed frigate to the navy's main naval base at Puerto Belgrano, 600 kilometres south of Buenos Aires. "The talent and the efficiency of these sailors turned them into a symbol of this Argentina that is finding its own place in a world which no longer admits unjustified aggressions, violence or sheer force for its own sake," he said in a televised speech. Argentina was the only Latin American country to commit troops to the allied force.

Soviet pilot asks for asylum in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — A Soviet Armenian pilot has asked for asylum in Turkey after flying a military transport helicopter across the frontier to the eastern town of Erzurum, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Friday. Foreign Ministry officials told the agency that the pilot, from the Soviet Republic of Armenia, was being questioned but gave no details on his asylum request. Soviet TASS news agency earlier on Thursday gave the airman's name as Lieutenant-Navigator I. Gimatov, whom it said took off from an airfield in the southern Transcaucasus district on Wednesday and flew his Mi-8 helicopter across the border.

Troops end Afghan sit-in in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese troops broke up a sit-in by Afghan refugees at the Beirut office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Wednesday. Troops pushed about 15 Afghans out of the office at the end of the six-hour protest. The Afghans said the U.N. agency had failed to help them and demanded it ask the Lebanese authorities to provide them with an empty building to live in. A similar protest by the Afghans on Tuesday was broken up by police, witnesses reported. "We are not terrorists or killers," said protest organiser Abdullah Bathari, a former pharmacist.

Fadlallah urges U.S. to press Israel

BEIRUT (R) — The spiritual mentor of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) said Friday Washington should press Israel to free Arab prisoners if it wanted Western hostages held in Lebanon released. Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah said in a sermon at Friday prayers in Beirut's southern suburbs: "We hear lots of talk, emotional, humanitarian and political, on the Western hostages. The whole world talks about them emotionally. Each day they show us on television the wife of this captive, the children of that captive to arouse emotions ... but why this discrimination between the captives? Why don't we remember that Sheikh Abdul Karim Obaid, a clergyman who lived with the oppressed at his village, has a wife missing him like the wives of other captives, children like the others?" Sheikh Obaid, a Hizbollah official, was kidnapped by Israeli commandos from his home in South Lebanon on July 28, 1989.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 French varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 No Job for a Lady
21:00 Encounter
21:30 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Sadie and Son"

PRAYER TIMES

04:36 Fajr
05:50 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:33 Dhuhr
16:12 'Asr
19:17 Maghrib
20:41 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeth, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637441
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasants Church Tel. 622346
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625293, Tel. 620543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 815817, 634932
The Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Some clouds appear at different altitudes and there will be a possibility of scattered showers of rain. Winds will be northeasterly light becoming southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be southerly moderate and seas rough.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./max. temp.
Amman 15 / 28
Aqaba 20 / 33
Deserts 14 / 30
Jordan Valley 18 / 32

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hussein Hadad 731267
Dr. Wael Dumail 748800
Dr. Kayed Halayqa 793522
Dr. Mohammad Al Shawish 659878
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 625672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 637670
Shamsani pharmacy 637660
1880:
Dr. Ali Al Samman (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (275825)
ZARQA:
Dr. Hisham Hiyasat (—)
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 845402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661174
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/352
Khafdi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khadi Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmashani 664771/4
Shmashani Hospital 669131
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/27
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marla 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 622405/0
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)3320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:15 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:15 New Delhi (RJ)
10:30 Karachi, Oubai (RJ)
11:00 Damascus (RJ)
11:15 Aqaba (RJ)
17:45 Cairo (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:00 Aqaba (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:30 Brussels, London (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
16:30 Tripoli (RJ)
20:00 Jeddah (RJ)
22:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Paris (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:15 Beirut (ME)
22:55 Cairo (MS)
23:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 850 / 750
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Makamur) 450 / 400
Beans 340 / 250
Broad beans 220 / 180
Cabbage 160 / 120
Carrot 200 / 150
Cauliflower 330 / 280
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 100 / 60
Dates 1000 / 800
Eggplant 320 / 280
Garlic 420 / 360
Grapefruit 230 / 160
Lemon 530 / 280
Lettuce (per one) 100 / 70
Marrow (large) 100 / 60
Marrow (small) 300 / 250
Onion (green) 220 / 160
Onion (dry) 150 / 100
Orange 250 / 200
Pepper (hot) 300 / 250
Pepper (sweet) 240 / 200
Radish 250 / 180
Sage 150 / 100
Spanish 400 / 300
Tomatoes 120 / 80

258 students honoured for distinguished voluntary work

AMMAN (Petra) — Prizes for the 1991 Crown Prince Hassan Award were distributed Thursday to 258 male and female students from Ministry of Education schools, youth centres, community colleges and universities.

A total of 54 students received silver medals and the rest received bronze medals in recognition of their distinguished voluntary work to serve the local community, to protect the environment and to conduct scientific research work.

Prizes were also assigned for those who excelled in various skills like music, chess playing, sports events, scouting and other similar endeavours.

Minister of Education Abdul-

lah Al Akaileh distributed the prizes to the winners at a ceremony held at the International Baccalaureate School in the presence of Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tai, members of the board of trustees of the Prince Hassan Award and relatives of the participating students.

The minister delivered a speech on the occasion paying tribute to His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan for their deep concern over the educational process in Jordan and their concern for developing the abilities of the youth in serving their country and nation.

A total of 3,300 students have so far taken part in competitions to win the Crown Hassan Award.

Charity organisation holds courses for camp women

AMMAN (J.T.) — Human Appeal carried out first courses of social training for women in the Women's Rehabilitation Centre in Al Hussain Camp with the participation of 30 girls from the camp in cooperation with United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and vocational training centres.

Human Appeal a charity organisation, and UNRWA are financing these courses in all camps and supervising the courses proceeding in accordance with the programme designed for that, while the vocational training centres secure lecturers and training materials.

These courses are among Human Appeal Jordan office's plan that aims to rehabilitate and prepare women through quick courses to deal with the new house life in a practical and easy way.

The first course is conducted under the address "Basic Principles in Electrical Extensions and Maintenance" where the vocational training centres started to train the participating girls on the works of electrical maintenance and dealing with the simple environmental issues.

The course will continue for a month. Students will be graduated and granted official certificates at the end of the course.

Latest \$425m loan brings Japan's total economic aid to Jordan to \$1,314m

Jordan, Japan sign loan agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's ambassador to Japan Thursday signed an agreement under which Japan will grant the Kingdom a loan totalling \$425 million, which carries an annual interest of one per cent and is payable over 20 years, with a 10-year grace period, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The agency said that the loan would be used for the purchase of commodities and services from Japan, and noted that the first instalment of the loan, which is almost half of the amount, would be available to the Kingdom before the end of April.

The loan agreement was initialled in Amman, on April 11, by Japan's Ambassador to the Kingdom Tadayuki Nonoyama and Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah, and it was announced that the loan was

aimed at supporting Jordan's national economy which sustained serious losses from the Gulf crisis.

Together with the present commodity loan, the total amount of Japan's financial aid to Jordan, to cope with the economic impact of the Gulf crisis, has now reached \$700 million, including \$250 million offered last year.

In addition, Japan provided over \$60 million to international organisations for relief operations for the evacuees, mainly conducted in Jordan, and \$1.1 million worth of blankets, tents, food, medicine and kerosene stoves to Jordan in emergency aid for the evacuees.

The cumulative total of Japan's economic aid to Jordan so far, including soft loans, grants and technical assistance, amounts to nearly \$1,314 million.

U.N. project to be extended

AMMAN (J.T.) — A U.N.-sponsored project for the development of human resources has been extended to last until 1994, and a decision has been taken to set up a steering committee, grouping representatives of the concerned department, to draw up an integrated strategy to meet the future demands.

The decisions came at a meeting attended by representatives of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the U.N. Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan Touqan.

A general review was made of the progress on the project, which was started two years ago, and of the studies and research work conducted in the field of human resources in Jordan, under this programme, over the past two years.

Authorities involved in the implementation of the two-year project prepared studies and reports about such issues as unemployment and immigration and their effect on Jordan, the country's economic restructuring program-

me, the role of women in development, the labour market.

Participants in Wednesday's meeting reviewed progress on the creation of a data bank to provide information about the labour force, the labour market in Jordan and other related topics as well as studies on means of dealing with the growing number of unemployment in Jordan, a problem aggravated by the return here of Jordanian expatriates.

A noted economist said in a statement published Wednesday that unemployment in Jordan was entrenched in the structure of the Jordanian society, and the Jordanians were bound to suffer from higher rates of unemployment in the years to come.

Jawad Al Anani, who had served as Minister of Industry and Trade, said that the Kingdom was in need of JD 1 billion in investments annually to achieve a balance between the increase in the labour force and the required capital formation.

The U.N.-sponsored project entails training and developing the efficiency of the human resources involved in research and study in the field of the labour force.



PRINCESS ALIA OPENS EXHIBITION: Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Al Faisal Thursday opened a week-long exhibition of dried flowers at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) in Amman with the proceeds benefitting Iraqi children. The exhibition by Hind Kurdi displays 20 paintings and 20 dried flower arrangements as

well as 100 cards enveloped in dried flowers. The artist said the materials used in the exhibition could be found in any house and could be used in various artistic types of work. She said she would hold another exhibition of flowers in the coming year, with the proceeds to benefit the people in the southern regions of Jordan.

Volunteers join charity to offer humanitarian services

AMMAN (Petra) — The Hashemite Jordanian Charity for Relief, Development and Inter-Arab and Islamic Cooperation has opened the door for volunteers to join "the Hashemite Jordanian Welfare Teams," according to Abdul Salam Al Ahbadi, the charity's secretary-general.

Mr. Ahbadi said these teams were the "pragmatic arm of the charity, which helps it carry out its humanitarian mission, and achieve its objectives inside and outside Jordan."

Mr. Ahbadi said the teams sought to provide humanitarian services in areas like relief, development, and general services to local communities.

Mr. Ahbadi said that the charity received applications for joining the teams from doctors, engineers, technicians and others who can do voluntary work in various fields, including health, environment, agriculture, industry, handicrafts, education, admin-

istration. Mr. Ahbadi pointed out that the charity was currently cooperating with the Arab Youth Forum to raise funds for people who have been affected by the floods that swept the southern parts of Jordan in March.

He added that the charity planned to set up an income-generating project in Jurf Al Darwish area, and that it was enhancing its relations with international organisations and bodies working in the same fields in a bid to ensure support for the charity's projects.

The charity was established at the end of 1988, in response to a request by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who is the charity's Board of Trustees chairman.

The charity's objectives are to assist in finding job opportunities for Jordanians, contribute to the development march, set up voluntary developmental projects

for qualified Jordanians, provide assistance to the needy Jordanians, Arabs and Muslims in the educational, social and economic fields through charitable projects and programmes designed to develop Jordanian, Arab and Muslim communities, and highlight Jordan's image through enhancing relations with Arab and Muslim communities.

Speaking about the charity's projects during the first year of its life, Mr. Ahbadi said it had set up a camp for evacuees, who fled Iraq and Kuwait following the eruption of the Gulf crisis. The camp, which hosted more than 55,000 evacuees on their way back home, cost the charity more than JD 640,000 in terms of services provided for them.

The charity also took over the duties and mandate of the National Committee for Solidarity with Sudan and has finalised the expansion of Kas hospital in Sudan.

Flights picking up steadily

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While most sectors are gradually resuming their pre-war activities, so too are some international air carriers who suspended their Middle Eastern destinations mostly because of the high insurance rate.

Air France, which began flying again early in April, "has destinations to Damascus and Paris from Amman," Rafiq Sakhad, Air France's assistant manager said.

Though Egypt Air stopped operating flights from Jan. 15 until the end of the month, "we have resumed the three weekly flights since Feb. 1," an Egypt Air official said. Plans for expansion will begin on June 1 with daily flights to Cairo.

Other Arab air carriers which resumed their flights to Amman include Saudi Airlines, Gulf Air and Yemen Airways.

British Airways, on the other hand, have no plans for the next six months, although there is an agreement with Royal Jordanian (RJ) to fly the London-Amman-London route, Manager of British Airways Raul Twa, told the Jordan Times. "There are no in-

dications that British Airways will resume flights to Amman because the RJ agreement is satisfactory," Mr. Twa said. British Airways stopped operations in Amman on March, before the Gulf war, for commercial reasons.

Most air carriers however, stopped their operations in the Middle East because of the increased risk factor in the war zone and the passenger surcharge — a premium of \$250 per passenger.

"We stopped operating on Jan. 10 because it was not profitable," said an official of the Turkish Airlines. "Now it is not known when we will resume our operations because there is a general strike with the Turkish Airlines," he added.

Lufthansa, the German Airlines, which had regular flights to Jordan before Jan. 14, is still uncertain about when flights will begin again. "It is definitely not going to be before the summer," an official said.

Other international airlines, like KLM, the Dutch airlines, and Alitalia, are also uncertain. "KLM suspended its flights for economic reasons and not because of the war," explained an official. "We had losses worldwide and we had to suspend flights to 15 other des-

tinations," said the official. The business is not yet there for KLM to resume flying to Jordan, but it does not mean that KLM is not coming back. The official said stressing that RJ has agreed to carry all passengers to Amsterdam.

Alitalia is still receiving all the technical information, but one official said that by next month the airlines will operate again.

Swissair, however, has no plans of returning. "It has nothing to do with the insurance rate," said the Swissair area manager. "We stopped the Jordanian and Damascus route on Oct. 10, and instead we might have a joint venture with Austria Airlines which will fly our passengers instead."

Of the Eastern European airlines, Aeroflot did not stop its flights. "We did not see a necessity although we had a problem with the insurance," an official said. Aeroflot is currently flying once a week to Moscow, but in the summer "we plan to work with RJ to add another flight weekly," he said.

Though some airline officials believe that there will be a comeback shortly after the summer, others say most airlines will not return before the end of the year.

ICRC tracing system brings relief to families of expatriates

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Dozens of anxious women and children flock to the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Amman every day seeking news of their loved ones in Kuwait through a tracing system set up by the ICRC and to send or receive messages.

In the absence of direct telecommunications with Kuwait, and in view of the non-availability of visas to visit the emirate, the only option available to family members is to seek ICRC help to know whether their relatives are alive, in prison, in hospital or "missing" altogether.

The ICRC also serves as a postal system, channelling messages to and forth between residents in Kuwait and relatives outside.

For newcomers the process starts with filing applications with all available details of the person(s) being sought. The details are sent to the ICRC headquarters in Geneva, from where they are forwarded to the all-Swiss humanitarian agency's offices in Kuwait or the Kuwaiti Red Cross for inquiries. Results are sent back to Geneva for onward transmission to Amman, explained Michel Schroeder, spokesman for the ICRC office in Jordan.

"We contact the families by phone or letter as soon as we receive a reply from Geneva," Mr. Schroeder said.

The ICRC "tracing system" — one of the traditional forms of help offered by the agency in areas of conflict — has received hundreds of applications since the Gulf crisis erupted in August with the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

There cannot be any time limit for definite results in tracing people in Kuwait, said Jinina Spinach, an ICRC de-

legate who handles the system in Amman. She explained that in many cases the details available include only a telephone or postbox number without street addresses and this makes the process time-consuming.

"We always press for as much details as possible of the person sought," Ms. Spinach told the Jordan Times. "Sometimes descriptions of buildings provide clues and help the tracing process considerably," she said.

The lucky ones get to know of the whereabouts of their relatives and friends in a matter of three to four weeks, but there are hundreds for whom the process takes months.

"In some cases the message that we receive is only a few words: The person is well, and at so and so place," said Mr. Schroeder.

"But that is a great comfort for the anxious family member," he said.

A 45-year-old woman, who identified herself only as Um Hussein, said her two sons Hussein and Ahmad — were in Kuwait for five years before the invasion. "Now I know that Hussein is in a Kuwaiti jail, but his health is alright," Um Hussein told the Jordan Times as she was walking out of the ICRC office.

"But I have no idea where Ahmad is; nor does Hussein," said the woman, wiping her off tears. "I hope the foreigners in there would be able to get me some information on how and where Ahmad is," she gestured to the ICRC office. "They have been very kind," she added.

There are hundreds of others who have yet to hear of their relatives and family members.

"I approached the Red Cross in January seeking the whereabouts of my father," said 22-year-old Amjad. "I waited for three months, but I got no information. Now I come here very often rather

than wait at home to hear from them (the ICRC)," he said. Mr. Schroeder said it was almost impossible to get any information on "missing" people during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. "But the situation has changed now," he said.

It is relatively easy to trace a Kuwait resident if he or she is imprisoned in the emirate since the ICRC has an almost full list of people detained there following the end of the Gulf war. ICRC officials also visit almost 700 prisoners every day in Kuwait.

But it is a little more time-consuming for others since, more often than not, the only available detail is a telephone number, and the Kuwaiti telephone system is in total shambles.

The concern of families, particularly in Jordan and the occupied territories, hit a peak when reports of Kuwaiti "revenge attacks" were reported against Jordanians and Palestinians for what was perceived as their "collaboration" with the Iraqi army during its seven-month occupation of the emirate.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has said that over 200 people were tortured and killed after the war by armed Kuwaiti elements, including members of the emirate's security forces. Middle East Watch, an American human rights organisation, said about 40 people were confirmed killed.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights watchdog, expressed alarm over the situation, and, in response, Kuwaiti government officials said they were adopting measures to check arbitrary measures against foreign residents of Kuwait.

Ms. Spinach said there were only "three or four cases" where the ICRC had traced missing people to prison in Kuwait. And no cases of death have been reported to families through the ICRC, she said.

Jordan, EC consider extending, increasing 4th financial protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prospects for extending and increasing the fourth financial and technical protocol between Jordan and the European Community (EC) were discussed here by Ministry of Planning Secretary-General Safwan Touqan and EC delegate here Christian Falkowski, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Agreement was reached in principle on defining sectors which would benefit from EC grants and loans to the Kingdom.

The agency quoted Mr. Touqan as saying, following the meeting at the Ministry of Planning, that tentative agreement was reached by the two sides to give priority to the development of the

Kingdom's water resources, exports and education in addition to tourism, environment and training of non-skilled Jordanians in various trades to help curtail the problem of unemployment.

The total amount of the fourth protocol, which is still to be signed in Brussels in the second part of this year, is estimated at 126 million European Currency Units (ECUs), or nearly \$165 million, covering the period 1992 to 1996, Petra said.

Last February, Jordan received about 165 million from the EC as part of assistance to offset the losses the Kingdom sustained as a result of its adherence to international sanctions against Iraq.

The amount represented 80 per cent of the EC grant allocated to Jordan for 1991.

The aid agreement followed an assessment of Jordan which was most affected by the Gulf crisis and particularly by the economic embargo on Iraq, according to an EC press release. It said that the EC was concerned that the Jordanian economy, already burdened by foreign debts of \$8 billion, had suffered seriously since August 1990.

The fourth protocol, which will be signed in Brussels, entails a soft loan of 80 million ECUs, from the European Investment Bank, while the rest will come in the form of grants.

Arab Youth Forum to debate laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Youth Forum (AYF) Friday decided to call the General Assembly for session on May 3 to discuss and approve the new statutes of the forum.

During Friday's meeting, which was chaired by representative of the AYF's Chairman Abdullah Kanaan, the Board of Trustees assigned an ad hoc committee to take the necessary steps to prepare lists of the general assembly members and supervise

the debate of the statutes.

The board also decided to request the AYF branches to nominate a member for each branch to act as an observer on the Board of Trustees.

In another development, Mr. Kanaan, earlier had contacts with the Jordanian Olympic Committee to raise contributions to the southern regions of Jordan. The committee "has agreed to hold a sports tournament of va-

rious games. Revenues from such games would go to the benefit of people in the southern regions of Jordan who were affected by the floods that swept the region in March.

Mr. Kanaan noted that the AYF's strategy in the area of fund-raising, in cooperation with the Hashemite Charity, will not be restricted to a specific period of time, but will continue until the end of the year.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

- ☆ Exhibition of fine handicrafts, weavings, quilts, on Friday, at the Abu Jaber estate-Yadoudah (open: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.)
- ☆ Dried flowers exhibition by Hind Kurdi Nuweiran at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ☆ German film entitled "Schlacht um Berlin" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

U.N. office moved to Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman is to temporarily host the U.N. regional office for Animal Production and Health Commission for Asia and Far East which has its permanent base in Baghdad, in accordance with an announcement here Wednesday.

Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh said Jordan welcomed the decision by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), to which the regional office is affiliated, and said that the Kingdom would do all it can to promote cooperation with various Arab and foreign countries and organisations in the two regions to promote agri-

cultural production. The office, founded in 1973, aims at promoting livestock development, animal health and husbandry and research action with respect to animal health and husbandry problems in Asia and the Far East.

Mr. Alawneh, who was speaking at a meeting with Dr. Farouk Dasouqi, FAO's representative in the Baghdad office, said that Jordan was keen on bolstering its ties with all world organisations in all matters related to agricultural projects.

"The regional office is supervising animal husbandry projects

in the Near East with the purpose of helping eliminate animal diseases and discovering infections before the disease is allowed to spread," Mr. Dasouqi said at the meeting.

During the meeting, which was attended by several U.N. officials, a general review was made on FAO's contributions to the countries of the Arab region.

"FAO is keen on offering any help related to animal husbandry and livestock production," said Mr. Dasouqi.

Most of the Arab states are members of the regional office which groups representatives of 27 countries.

ANNOUNCING AN

EXHIBITION of fine handicrafts

Bani Hamida JORDAN RUGS-QUILTS designs RIVER

As a courtesy of the Sons of Sa'ad Abu Jaber

AT THE ABU JABER ESTATE (adjacent to KAN ZAMAN)

26th April-3rd May 1991 — 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Save the Children Project

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Jordan Times

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License to kill?

IN 1990, there were over 18,000 traffic accidents in the Kingdom. Three hundred and fifty-five (355) people died and 9,474 were injured as a result. The country has suffered some JD 40m in economic cost as well.

Each time the police release figures like these, there is usually an outcry over the heavy loss of life. This year it is no different. A seminar will be organised today to discuss the problem. It will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) at 5 p.m., and everybody has been invited to attend.

Less than three kilometres down the road from RCC, this newspaper has consistently reacted with great concern to traffic casualty reports and commented on them. We have said it before and find it necessary to say it again: Unless some solid action is taken by the police department itself it will be pointless to blame the wrong interaction by men and machines for the carnage on the roads.

Of course it is mostly the fault of drivers that so many accidents take place. But those who license them to drive and who enforce traffic laws take the biggest share of responsibility for the tragedy. It all begins with driving tests. These are conducted not on the basis of how safely an examinee can drive but quite often on how well connected he or she is and when this is not the case on his or her ability to handle the car but not the road. After that, instead of making sure that the driver drives according to the law, like stopping at stop signs and getting into and staying on the right lane, the traffic police prefer to watch from a distance. Such dangerous types of violations to get close only when a car is parked in the wrong space or when drivers are exceeding the speed limit on almost empty highways. Generally speaking our police officers are infinitely better at directing traffic at congested intersections and roundabouts, with a cigarette or sandwich in hand, than positioning themselves and their cars near stop signs and busy lanes and catching violators who seem to have totally forgotten what such signs and road markings mean in the first place.

Then there is the never-ending hassle between the traffic department and the municipalities (or traffic committees in various towns) over road planning and the location of wedding halls where cars usually park just outside, further complicating the flow of traffic for all others. The governmental agencies cannot even agree between themselves on how to resolve common problems: How can they ever hope that the disparate driving mentalities and habits of people will flow in a stream on their own?

Today's seminar can issue appeals to drivers to be more careful while at it and recommend more public awareness campaigns in newspapers and on radio and television. But participants should know that these steps will not be enough to make 1991 and beyond less hazardous than 1990 and the years before. They will have to devise means to put pressure on the traffic police to do their job, and properly so. If Jordanian drivers do not have the patience of several seconds to halt at stop signs and to change and stick to lanes safely, then the law has to force them to do it.

Faith in our drivers' ability to change their wrong habits automatically is nice. But it is doubtful over whether they will do it out of their own accord that should get us the needed education.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily expressed the view that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was facing growing obstacles laid in the path of his mission by the Israeli government and said that this position places Baker's mission face to face with the moment of truth. The paper referred in particular to the recent statement by Israel's Housing Minister Ariel Sharon who declared that Israel would reject American ideas based on an exchange of peace for land, and Israel's announcement of the creation of a new settlement near the city of Nablus on the Occupied Arab Lands. It said that such attitude on the part of Israel represents a real challenge to the U.S. secretary and his mission. The Israeli intransigence, and rejection of peace can only raise the big question of: what prevents Washington from implementing the international legitimacy and the application of U.N. Security Council resolutions with regard to the Israeli occupation of Arab land on equal footing with its dealing with the Gulf crisis? Observers believe that Israel is driven to this position by its feeling that it has military superiority in the region, especially as the West is currently pursuing efforts to deprive Iraq of its weapons. The paper said that perhaps disarming Iraq should be delayed until a just and comprehensive peace had been established in the Middle East.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily urges the government to take speedy action with regard to the introduction of economic reforms, and says an ad hoc five members ministerial committee set up in the wake of the Gulf war has not achieved anything at all. The government should not suffice itself with the formation of this committee, but it must urge it to act immediately because Jordan is living through a transitional period of great seriousness, says Fahd Al Fanek. The decisions that have to be taken upon the recommendations of the committee would reflect positively or negatively on the national economy and the country's future status, says the writer. For example there is the question of: Will Jordan go back to the economic restructuring programme agreed on with the International Monetary Fund? There is a great slowness and delay in the economic reform process, and the government should not delay taking measures related to dealing with the deficit in the national budget, says Fanek. The writer notes that the financial assistance from Japan and the European countries could not be forthcoming in 1992, and therefore something has to be done now and not leave matters as the government had done five years ago before the economic crisis emerged. He urgently calls on the government to find means of dealing with the economic situation through the five-member committee as soon as possible and before the matter gets out of hand.

View from Amman

Ma'al - Shaitan and the new world order

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

THE PLAN to bring about the new world order through manufacturing the Gulf crisis between Kuwait and Iraq was so well executed and so thoroughly successful it took everyone by surprise. Neither of the victims — Kuwait and Iraq — nor the Arab or foreign participants, nor indeed even the spectators had any inclination as to what was truly going on until the plan became a reality. All of a sudden, the hated "colonial" powers, practically vilified till the very day of landing their troops in the Gulf, were not only welcomed but in fact paid for by the intended victims themselves. Whether for or against Iraq or Kuwait, mankind, especially the Arabs stood around literally wringing their hands in utter hopeless helplessness. Neither the Soviets, Germans, Japanese nor anyone else understood nor fathomed what was truly going on at the time. The speed of execution was stunning, and the entire chorus of actors became literally like chess pieces moved about at will.

What took place was the cleansing of the slate of international politics existing since World War II. From the first week in August of 1990, a date that shall be of great significance historically, the world, perhaps for the first time in history became unipolar. To be sure, there will remain powers on the regional and even on the international level, but these will be constantly on the alert to, and constrained by the intentions or actions of the unipower, the United States and its trio partners: Britain, because the U.S. will continue to need an Atlantic partner, and Zionist Israel because of the influence of Zionism on the international media.

Oil became the lifeline of Western civilisation since the

beginning of the century. Its importance became evident in World War I and a matter of life and death in World War II and its aftermath. Franklin Roosevelt stated in the wake of World War II that the United States would defend the integrity — oil — of Saudi Arabia with all its means. Since then nine other presidents who succeeded him to the White House said essentially the same thing. That neither then, nor now, nor in 1990 the integrity of Saudi Arabia was in jeopardy seemed to matter little any way. What the U.S. was and is saying is that the oil of Arabia is "ours" and "we will defend it regardless of where God or nature has placed it."

And, as the fifties turned into the sixties, and then the seventies with the so-called cold war turning chillier, the need to control the fountains of oil to Arabia became more evident. The greatest shock to the West, and especially to the Americans, was when oil was used as a weapon by the Arabs in the wake of the 1973 Ramadan war. Two things became evident in retrospect: The first, that the Arabs are "crazy" enough to deny the bloodline to Western civilisation and that once they had "done" it, they could do it again and the second, the realisation that Israel, regardless of how well armed and powerful regionally, cannot do the job of securing oil alone.

Of course it helped then, as it still does now, that the Arabs are not only disunited, essentially leaderless and in their usual disarray. The West discovered quickly that someone has to think for them. This was especially true of those Arabs, who in the shock of sudden wealth, began to identify themselves with the North and as an extension of it. They did not realise that

regardless of how well they spoke English or how much they spent or invested in Western capitals, or tried to emulate the consumerism of the West they would never be treated as anything but Islam of the West they stuck to the outward appearance of the West. And while they stuck to the outward appearance of the West, they gave their heart and sometimes their Arabism flowing robes, they gave their heart and sometimes their soul to the West. Some truly thought they became Western and little idea the damage they were doing to their neighbours and fellow Arabs and this became a major psychological factor manipulated by the West to instigate further hatred between the neighbours. The Iraqis complained of this attitude and others, Jordanians, Palestinians and Egyptians suffered it too.

The clash of 1991 was an inevitable historical event not only because of regional attitudes but also because of Western-led international planning. The Arabs of old used to call oil, *Ma'al-Shaitan* the water of the devil. Indeed, as events have proven it is. It is too precious, too important, in fact even too sacred to be left in the hands of the Arabs. The same Arabs who never seem to settle down either to govern themselves internally properly or to conduct stable long duration relations with the outside world. The same Arabs, who whether defeated or not, continue to be proud, even arrogant.

And thus it came to pass that the blow had to be struck to divide the tribes more than they were ever divided and to plant new vendettas, while at the same time securing the hegemony of Israel regionally and American world order and ascendancy internationally. And, we continue to pray!

U.N. resolution 687 imposes foreign control over part of Iraq's economic resources

'We are at their mercy'

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

The writer has just returned from a working visit to Iraq

BAGHDAD — Iraq's efforts to rebuild its war-shattered economy are expected to be seriously hampered by a U.N. Gulf ceasefire resolution earmarking part of the country's oil revenues for war reparations.

Iraqi officials say that Resolution 687, which stripped Iraq of its missiles, chemical and biological weapons, has also imposed "foreign control" on part of the country's economic resources by channeling an unspecified percentage of oil revenues to pay for reparations.

The United States, which has literally destroyed our country, wants us to pay reparations to other countries," Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said following Baghdad's grudging acceptance of the resolution on April 6.

"It is ironic that we, who have suffered the most as a result of U.S. aggression, are now forced to pay reparations to countries

which took part in the aggression against us."

Trade Minister Mahdi Saleh said last week that the reconstruction effort, expected to cost at least \$200 billion, was further frustrated by a U.N. timetable delaying the lifting of the ban on Iraqi oil exports until after 45 days of accepting the U.S.-initiated ceasefire resolution.

Oil exports used to bring in \$20 billion in revenues every year before the Security Council clamped an international embargo on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait.

Twelve of the Security Council's 15 members supported the 3,900-word resolution, the longest and detailed in the Council history, and the 14th adopted in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Only Cuba voted against, while Yemen and Ecuador abstained.

Mr. Saleh said the government accepted the resolution because it had "no choice," and so as to begin oil exports and the reconstruction effort as soon as possible.

"We have to begin exports because our food supplies in addition

to other basic needs are depleted," the trade minister said. "We cannot buy or rebuild anything without lifting the sanctions and getting oil revenues which used to amount to 90 per cent of our national income."

The resolution says that sanctions on Iraqi exports would be lifted "once the Security Council is satisfied Iraq's offensive potential has been neutralised," meaning that its mass destruction weapons are destroyed.

Iraqi officials say they do not know what percentage of the oil revenue is to be funnelled into a U.N.-administered fund to meet claims by "governments, companies and individuals" harmed by Iraq's invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

Abdul Amir Al Anbari, Iraq's U.N. representative, said that imposing reparations and retaining sanctions "would paralyse the country's ability to rebuild, while disarming us alone would create a political, military and security vacuum in the region."

Yemeni Ambassador Abdullah Al Ashtal, commenting on the resolution continuing a trade embargo against Iraq, asked:

"Why should the Iraqi people be prevented from importing of books, clothes, cooking utensils, construction material... toys for children? And why this cruelty to the Iraqi people who have suffered from the aerial bombardment for a whole month?"

Thirty days after Iraq's acceptance of the resolution (May 6), the secretary general must submit and the Security Council approve a fund to pay compensation for war damages that would be fed by an unspecified percentage of Iraq's oil revenues.

A commission would administer the fund and take into account Iraq's needs and its foreign debt.

According to Resolution 687, by day 45 at latest, the Security Council will lift its ban on Iraqi exports, including oil, "if Baghdad has banded over its dangerous weapons and nuclear materials for destruction or removal and the council has accepted the reparations payment plan. This includes the ban on Iraq's frozen assets abroad which are not mentioned in any compensation plan.

Reopening Iraqi oil pipelines crossing through Saudi Arabia and Turkey is considered by the

Iraqi government as crucial for resuming full-scale oil exports. The two pipelines were shut off after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Another Iraqi pipeline crossing Syrian territories was shut down during Iran-Iraq war.

An Iraqi government official said that third-party contacts with Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Syria were inconclusive in determining the positions of Ankara, Riyadh and Damascus on reopening the pipelines.

"The Syrians told us in principle, but made no commitment, while Turkey and Saudi Arabia said it was up to the United States and the Security Council," the official said.

No figures are available on the size of Iraqi assets abroad, but diplomatic sources said they were "less than half of Iraq's foreign debt" which is estimated at \$80 billion.

A team of Jordanian telecommunications "experts," which visited Iraq in March, said the telecommunications system was destroyed beyond repair and needed to be totally replaced at an estimated cost of between \$4

and \$5 billion.

"It was clear that the bombardment was not aimed at only putting communication stations out of order," one expert said. "It was designed to completely destroy the facilities so that they cannot be repaired."

Iraqi officials say that the same applied to electric power stations, water networks, oil refineries and oil production, pumping and loading facilities.

Mr. Saleh said the government hoped to rebuild most of the destroyed infrastructure within "a few years, depending on the cooperation of other states."

Other officials pointed out that Iraq would not be able to reach an adequate level of oil exports unless it was able to reopen oil pipelines going through either Saudi Arabia, Turkey or Syria.

Turkey and Saudi Arabia shut the pipelines crossing their territories following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, while Syria closed the pipeline during the Iran-Iraq war.

In a way, one Iraqi official said, "we are at their mercy. However, they will, I believe, let us export oil so that we can pay the war reparations."

This week in print

"This week in print" compiles main topics discussed in the local press over the period of a week. It will appear in this same corner every Saturday.

THE LOCAL Jordanian press this week gave due prominence to visits to the region including Jordan by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who was on the third trip of shuttle diplomacy in the region to discuss means of reviving the Middle East peace process.

Editorials and columnists gave extensive coverage of the prospects of the visits, but most of them cast doubt about the U.S. secretary's ability to arrive at concrete results, largely due to Israel's continued intransigence and its pursuit of its aggressive policies in the occupied Arab territories.

"James Baker did well by starting his tour with a visit to Israel because he might have realised from earlier visits that it was Israel's adamant position which constituted the stumbling block to any peace settlement," said an editorial in Sawt Al Shaab. "Unless Baker deals with the Arab-Israeli conflict and Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian land with the same zeal, with which Washington dealt with the Kuwait issue, the Arab nation would consider the U.S. secretary's tours as futile," said a columnist in Al Dostour. "Baker should not aim to obtain further concessions from the Arabs and condone Israel's intransigent stand which does not accept the principle of exchanging land for peace," said Fathi Al Najjar in his column.

"Should the American administration pursue an unjust and unfair attitude in its dealings with the Arabs and the Israelis, the Arab countries must stop this farce which is designed to give international legitimacy to Israel's occupation of Arab lands," the columnist added.

Another columnist in the same paper, Taher Al Udwan, agreed with Najjar in his analysis

of the situation and reminded his readers that Baker went on record saying that he would not exercise any pressure on Israel to change its position.

"If a referendum is held in our region about Baker's tour and declared intention of achieving peace based on Security Council resolutions no one would ever believe that this could ever materialise," said Udwan. "With the destruction of the Iraqi forces in the Gulf war, what remained of America's credibility as a power for the peace-making has been destroyed; and any success coming out from Baker's shuttle diplomacy would end up to be in Israel's interest," Udwan added. He said that if Baker wanted to be a real peace maker he should first spend time at the Nuseirat and Rafah camps, and visit the occupied towns in Palestine to see for himself the atrocities committed against the Palestinians and be moved to take some action.

Writing in Al Dostour, Mohammad Kaawash agrees with this view, and said that the Arabs would like to see Baker achieving progress towards peace. But he said unless the U.S. secretary comes up with concrete results, the Arab nation would realise that Washington was indeed following a double standard policy.

Dwelling on the same topic, Ahmad Dhiban, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said all that Baker succeeded in doing so far is arousing a controversy over the character of the coming proposed Middle East conference: "regional or international," but the substance of the whole matter has not been touched.

"The Arabs had hoped that the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 333 will be implemented through such

conferences which would be attended and guaranteed by the Council's five member nations among other concerned parties," Dhiban noted.

"Whether regional or international, if such a conference does not impose withdrawal on Israel as it did on Iraq which occupied Kuwait, there would be no need for any conference at all," said Dhiban. "Indeed I call on the Arabs not to attend either conference as it would be pointless unless the objectives are guaranteed," added Dhiban.

The character of such conference was discussed by Mahmood Al Rimawi. Writing in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, the columnist said that Shamir wants a regional conference so that no other world powers except the United States can attend, so as to escape the commitment of implementing U.N. Security Council resolutions which were endorsed by various world powers. "The Arab parties realise Israel's aims, but such realisation would remain fruitless, unless the Arab states adopted a concerted stand before talk about conferences can begin," Rimawi stressed.

The agricultural situation in Jordan also dominated topics raised by columnists and editorials in the various papers this week.

Fahd Al Fanek said that Jordan should not wait until the year 2000 to face the water shortages crisis, especially water for agricultural purposes, because the crisis, is with us now and should be dealt with immediately and at the highest level. "Israel, Syria and Saudi Arabia share with Jordan the country's poor water resources, depriving the Kingdom of means to develop its agriculture," Fanek pointed out.

Nazih, another columnist in Al Ra'i daily agreed with this view and said that the agricultural sector would be the first victim of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation's policy

to reduce water distribution due to the chronic shortage in water supplies. Nazih said that not only the production for the local markets would be affected but the country's exports of agricultural products would also be seriously affected as a result of this policy.

A columnist in Al Dostour daily supported this view, and said that the coming years would witness a sharp decline in the production of vegetables and fruits due to the poor water supplies. The Ministry of Water has defined the ailment by declaring the water amounts stored in the Kingdom's dams; but the remedy has to come from the specialists and through efforts at the national level involving the government, parliament and probably direct intervention on the part of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to find speedy solutions to the problem plaguing the agricultural sector in Jordan, said Mohammad Masalha.

Another domestic topic tackled by the press in the past week was political freedom through political parties and citizens involvement in political affairs. Writing in Sawt Al Shaab, columnist Jibad Al Ahmad expressed his dismay at statements by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Abdul Baqi Jammo who opposed the idea of an opposition to the government.

"The minister who spent 30 years in parliament should be more understanding of the real role of parliamentary opposition whose main aim is to rectify government policies whenever that is possible," said Al Ahmad. The writer stressed that opposition constitutes a main pillar for parliament which should serve as a watchdog over the executive authority's performance.

Dealing with the same issue from a different angle, Foad Hussein criticised laws that prohibit the involvement of civil servants in political activities.

Saudi Arabia wary of direct involvement in Mideast negotiations

By Marian Isa
Reuter

RIYADH, — Saudi Arabia, which has backed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for a regional Middle East peace conference, is wary of close involvement in the quagmire of Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Riyadh supported the regional peace conference proposal hoping it would be the first step towards the Arab goal of Palestinian self-determination and the return of Arab lands, a senior Saudi Foreign Ministry official said.

But he told Reuters the conservative desert Kingdom, home of Islam's holiest sites, had nothing to gain from joining a regional conference between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

"Israel has nothing to offer us. We have no special problem with Israel — just its occupation of Arab lands," he said. Western diplomats in Riyadh said Washington had hoped Saudi Arabia, its political clout growing in the region after the Gulf war, would participate in any talks between the two sides and exercise a moderating influence among Arabs.

But they said Saudi officials balked at the idea of getting directly involved.

"They (Saudis) want to maintain as much distance as possible," one diplomat said. "They don't want to be seen as the stooges of the United States — it would increase the threat to their security when they have already come in for a lot of hostility from radical Arab states" he added.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said on Sunday his country would not join a peace conference with Israel but backed the Baker initiative. U.S. officials have said since

that the conference would now probably include only Arab states bordering Israel — Syria, Jordan, Egypt and possibly Lebanon.

Baker and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara said in Damascus on Wednesday they had failed to resolve differences on the proposed conference after nearly 10 hours of talks on Tuesday.

Baker later left for the Soviet Union and was due to return to Israel on Friday at the end of his third Middle East peace mission.

On Monday, Saudi Arabia issued a strong statement defending its decision to support the U.S. initiative.

"Saudi Arabia... has never retracted from a position it has taken or deviated from a policy it has declared," the official Saudi Press Agency said.

The Palestinian cause remained "the most important pivot on which Saudi foreign and even internal policies revolve," it added.

Saudi officials said they were counting on the international community to pressure Israel into accepting peace talks.

Israelis were also probably tired of living with the intifada (Palestinian uprising) they said.

The Palestinian cause could not be linked to the widespread support Palestinians showed for Baghdad during the crisis, the foreign ministry official said.

"The Palestinians were desperate. Saddam told them he would burn half of Israel," he said. "The PLO leadership did not tell its people the truth," he added.

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states suspended all financial aid to the PLO in protest at its support for Iraq.

The official said a new institutional framework should be found for channelling aid to the Palestinians.

Baker cuts short mission

(Continued from page 1)
and the neighbouring Arab states.

Mr. Baker has won agreement from Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh to co-sponsor such talks within the framework of a regional conference.

Mr. Bessmertnykh is soon to tour the Middle East. There are reports he will visit Israel and Jordan, but he has refused to confirm them.

Arab states still demand U.N. participation. Israel wants a ceremonial opening to the conference which would then break up into direct talks between it and Arab states. It also rules out participation by the United Nations and Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem.

Israeli officials said the U.S. and Israel had agreed on four other points besides Soviet co-sponsorship.

They are:
— Agreement to a European role in the conference, the exact role to be worked out when Mr. Levy meets European Community (EC) leaders in Brussels in mid-May.

— The regional conference will have no authority to reach or impose decisions.

— Israel and other parties have veto power over the conference reconvening to hear progress reports on negotiations.

— Israel wants the conference to lead to direct talks and cover issues such as water, economic development and arms reduction.

Israeli officials speaking on condition of anonymity said Mr. Levy told Mr. Baker Israel was "weighing sympathetically" European participation in the peace talks.

In another "concession," the Israeli government would consider having the opening conference called back into session from time to time while the Arabs and Israelis negotiate directly over their differences, the sources said. However, Mr. Levy told

Mr. Baker that Israel would retain the right to veto re-opening the conference, said the officials.

The sources also said earlier that Mr. Levy would go to Brussels on May 14 to discuss European involvement with the foreign ministers of Italy, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

In his comments, Mr. Bush did not elaborate on what Mr. Baker had accomplished during his trip.

"He (Mr. Baker) has made progress. I've just talked to him," the president told reporters after a tree-planting ceremony on the White House South Lawn.

After the announcement of Mr. Baker's departure, Palestinian leaders released a copy of a letter they had delivered to the U.S. consulate for their meeting with the secretary of state.

The letter said those who had been scheduled to meet with Mr. Baker later Friday were requested to take part by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Palestinians' letter complained about the two new Jewish settlements that Israel started in the occupied West Bank during Mr. Baker's peace shuttle.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Shamir decided to continue the talks at a later date, but set no specific time. "This, of course is not the end of his mission," Mr. Pazner said.

Mr. Pazner quoted Mr. Shamir as saying that Israel "shared in the sorrow" of Mr. Baker and his family.

Hanan Ashrawi, one of the Palestinians who was to have met with Mr. Baker, said the delegation was "deeply grieved" to hear of the death.

"We understand it is painful for the family and we understand he should be with his family," said Ms. Ashrawi, a West Bank professor.

The secretary's mother was pronounced dead on arrival at a Houston, Texas, hospital early Friday morning. She apparently suffered a heart attack, said a hospital spokeswoman.

Baghdad and its people living a nightmare

By Debbie Lovatt
Special to the Jordan Times

BY ALL accounts Baghdad is quiet and empty in comparison with its noisy hustle up to the start of the war on Jan. 17.

Rashid Street was, until the outbreak of hostilities, a thronging shopping area. People filled the pavements, cars clogged the road. It used to be an offence warranting a fine to cross the road rather than use the subway.

Now, fuel is rationed and expensive, spare parts for cars have been exhausted for repairs and the streets are easy to cross as traffic has been reduced to a trickle.

Windscreens were under the international embargo imposed against Iraq for its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and many vehicles have cracked or no windscreens. Some are held together by tape.

People stand along the side of the roads going out of the city centre to the suburbs waiting for some kind of transport. Buses cooperate with taxis, tractors pulling trailers, trucks and lorries to move people around.

One common sight is cars being pushed to the nearest petrol station to join the queue for a fill up.

Iraq's capital is a bargain-hunter's paradise. Electrical goods, camera equipment, oriental rugs and clothes are all cheaper than in the West and prices sometimes beat those of Hong Kong.

Shopkeepers and well-off Iraqis, however, are frequently the only customers as wages for the average citizen do not permit frivolity when it comes

to luxury items.

Shopkeepers come to work each day more for something to do than for business. And strapped without a postal system, telephones, telex and fax facilities, office work is at a standstill.

Serious shoppers these days bring torches with them to stores where there is no electric light.

Several bombed buildings still stand but are completely gutted with steel girders bent and melted together from the heat of the fire that followed the explosion of the missile or bomb.

Houses, shops and offices close to the targeted sites have their windows blown out from the force of the blast and structural damage like cracked walls is clearly visible.

The U.S.-led coalition boasted of its success in knocking out military or other strategic locations but confusion is widespread over the choice of targets.

Quite why bridges, the main post office, a downtown cinema, the bomb shelter at Al Amiria and the Abu Ghraib baby milk factory were destroyed is a mystery.

Bombing Iraq to force a decision to withdraw from Kuwait and accept the terms of the United Nations ceasefire may have shortened the war, but it has not lessened the effect on the people.

Health is the main worry as the hot weather approaches. In summer the temperature averages 50° C creating ideal conditions for bacterial growth.

Electric power is gradually being restored. Work is underway 24 hours a day to repair or reconstruct essential amenities and extend them to the whole of Iraq as quickly as possible.

Without electricity water cannot be pumped. It has to be fetched from a hydrant, the river and even puddles. Sewage is not being properly treated and is going straight into the river to mix with water used for cooking and drinking.

Hospitals are increasingly reporting cases of severe diarrhoea and cases of cholera in children have recently been diagnosed.

The extent of severe illness and disease in children and babies is hard to judge as doctors are only too well aware that many parents are unable to bring their children for treatment as transport all but impossible for those living in the suburbs.

Doctors at Alwiyeh Children's Hospital have been working up to 22 hours a day in far from ideal conditions since the war started.

Eighteen out of 20 babies born on the first night of the war died due to the cold — no power meant no heat.

For sick premature infants the future is bleak, but thankfully short. Two rooms in Alwiyeh hospital house incubators. They are unplugged and will stand idle until power comes back to this part of Baghdad.

Doctors treating children for severe diarrhoea are reluctant to discharge them once they



Iraqi children who survived the allied bombardment now face the threat of epidemics (photo by William Brown)

are cured knowing that the same conditions that caused the illness in the first place remain.

Walking around various wards, the story becomes all too familiar. Sickness was not affecting only the offspring of poor less educated families, but all strata of society.

Six-month-old babies emaciated through diarrhoea weigh less than when they were born. Some will survive but the damage caused by malnutrition during the first two

years of a child's life causes stunted growth, reduced learning capabilities, even brain damage and impaired sight.

Doctors in Iraq throughout the war reported a doubling in the number of miscarriages and premature births. They see this as a result of stress due to the war.

Stress leads to hormone imbalance which, in pregnancy can cause contractions leading to premature birth-giving. Stress can also make breast

milk dry up forcing mothers to bottle-feed their children. After the baby milk factory was destroyed infant formula was rationed to three 450-gramme tins per month. Ten are needed. Clean water is also vital.

Infant formula is still in short supply and demand has pushed the price up. The Abu Ghraib factory produced 80 per cent of Iraq's domestic needs. It was the only such plant in the country.

The writer has just returned from a three-week stay in Baghdad

Tabloid publisher in detention

(Continued from page 1)

Petra Bank would be the only package that would be tried by military judges, and that a blanket lifting of martial law would follow immediately after the cases have been tried.

Banking circles said the loss incurred by Petra Bank, once the second largest Jordanian com-

Talabani

(Continued from page 1)

Kurds fleeing for the borders of neighbouring states.

"We're facing a tragedy and we do not want to be confronted with a new Armenian diaspora," he said, referring to people dispersed from their homeland in eastern Turkey.

"Our problem is to ensure that our people are not left outside the country. We want them to return to their homes as soon as possible," he added.

Mr. Talabani has insisted he was not abandoning his allies, the Shiite Muslim factions that rebelled in southern Iraq. The tentative agreement is for greater democracy throughout Iraq.

But Shiite leaders reacted cautiously. In Paris, a PDK spokesman called for the United Nations to guarantee the agreement with the Baghdad government.

"We aren't naive, we have no trust in (the Iraqi government)," PDK spokesman in Paris Jaffar Guly told the French daily newspaper Le Quotidien de Paris.

U.N. delays

(Continued from page 1)

mittee, Ambassador Peter Hohenfeller of Austria, Iraqi U.N. Representative Abdul Amir Al Anhari said his country wanted sanctions on the sale of Iraqi oil eased to raise money to buy food and other civilian items needed over the next four months.

In Vienna, an Iraqi diplomat said Friday he expected Baghdad to comply with the United Nations request for more detailed information on its stocks of nuclear material.

Matooq Al Matooq, scientific counsellor at Iraq's Vienna embassy, said in response to queries that he saw "no problem" in meeting the request though it would probably take some time.

"They need more details... there is no problem. Communications is the problem," Mr. Matooq said. Allied air raids destroyed Iraqi communications systems in the Gulf war.

The U.N. oil resolution required Baghdad to inform the U.N.'s Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its nuclear capacity.

U.N. to take over allied camps

(Continued from page 1)

and-answer session at the White House, said, "We're not looking for any fight," and that he does not expect a confrontation with Iraqi forces.

Asked if Iraq's word was good, Bush said, "Our forces are there to make sure that it's good."

"They don't want to tangle with the U.S. again," Mr. Bush said.

Consequently they say that the United Nations cannot formally take charge while U.S. and allied troops are on base without another resolution, which Washington is hesitant to sponsor because of possible objections from the Soviet Union and China.

Iraqi Ambassador Anhari said Thursday that U.N. personnel were needed for reassurance to the Kurds but argued that their numbers need not be large.

In contrast, France has been pushing for a huge number of United Nations personnel stationed in every hamlet in northern Iraq to provide relief aid as well as an international presence.

"A lot still needs to be thought out," said a senior U.N. official. "Right now there are Kurds coming back to Iraq but not many are flooding into anyone's camp and the first tent is not even finished."

Western diplomats said they thought a U.N. takeover of the camps would be more gradual, beginning with the staff from the U.N. Children's Fund, followed

perhaps by the World Health Organisation.

"One method may be to build up a U.N. presence but not formally take over until the allied troops are pulled out," said one envoy.

Politically, U.N. sources said there were problems in the United Nations running the camps while allied troops were still there.

The United States says its presence is covered by Security Council Resolution 688 that demands Iraq allow aid groups to deliver relief to those in need.

Some U.N. officials, including senior legal experts, argue that the resolution did not authorise troops to march in without Iraq's consent.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has suggested the United States may send additional troops to northern Iraq.

Mr. Cheney said Thursday that more than 7,000 American troops already were in northern Iraq and across the border in Turkey. He said the United States "may well deploy additional forces."

Mr. Cheney refused to discuss "deployments that are currently under way." Thus suggesting that the plan already was decided. He said Britain planned to send additional troops to the area.

British and U.S. marines patrolled the streets of Zakho.

Saudi Arabia has meanwhile offered safety and shelter to Iraqis now in southern Iraq when U.S. forces pull out of the region, relief officials said Friday.



الجمعية العلمية الملكية

TENDER NO. EEC 3299
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The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) announces Tender No. EEC 3299 for the delivery of laboratory equipment, and chemicals as a part of the execution of agreement No. 106/JO, project No. SEM/02/628/033, between the Royal Scientific Society and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC), financed by the CEC.

1. Copies of the Tender documents can be obtained free of charge from the Director of the Administrative Dept., Chairman of the Tender Committee, at the Royal Scientific Society during office hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) daily except for Thursdays and Fridays.

2. Tenders should be submitted to the Chairman of the Tender Committee at RSS before 10:00 a.m. local time, Tuesday June 11th, 1991.

President

الجمعية العلمية الملكية
إعلان صادر عن الجمعية العلمية الملكية رقم ٣٢٩٩

تعلن الجمعية العلمية الملكية عن طرح العطاء رقم EEC 3299 المتضمن توريد أجهزة مختبرات وكيموليات وذلك تنفيذاً للاتفاقية رقم 106/JO مشروع رقم SEM/02/628/033 الموقعة بين الجمعية العلمية الملكية والمجموعة الاقتصادية الأوروبية والممولة من المجموعة المذكورة.

١- على الراغبين الاشتراك في العطاء مراجعة المدير الإداري - رئيس لجنة العطاءات في الجمعية لتسلم وثائق العطاء مجاناً وذلك خلال ساعات الدوام الرسمي (ما بين الساعة ٨ - ٥ مساءً) عدا يومي الخميس والجمعة.

٢- آخر موعد لقبول العروض هو الساعة العاشرة من صباح يوم الثلاثاء الموافق ١١/٦/٩١ وتودع هذه العروض في صندوق العطاءات بمكتب المدير الإداري في الجمعية صرب ٩٢٥٨١٩ عمان.

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Unified Korean team continues winning streak in table tennis

CHIBA, Japan (AP) — The first unified North-South Korean sports team and England extended their winning streaks to four Friday in the men's team preliminary round of the 41st World Table Tennis Championships.

Korea beat Nigeria 3-0, and England beat Yugoslavia 3-1 to share the lead in Group A.

Korea is fielding a unified team at an international sports meet for the first time since the Korean peninsula was divided into the Communist North and the South in 1945.

Sweden, the defending men's team champion, overcoming their first defeat Thursday, collected

their third victory against one defeat, beating Belgium 3-1.

Yugoslavia beat Sweden 3-0 Friday. Yugoslavia also is 3-1.

China and Poland led Group B with four victories. China beat Hungary 3-1 while Poland defeated the Netherlands 3-1.

Germany is 3-1 after blanking Czechoslovakia 3-0.

In the women's team events, China, seeking its ninth straight team championship, was atop Group A.

China beat the Soviet Union 3-0 for its fifth victory.

Hungary was second at 4-1, followed by the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia at 3-2 each in Group A. Hungary beat Yugoslav-

via 3-0, Czechoslovakia downed England 3-0 and the Soviet Union lost 0-3 to China.

With five victories, Korea and Hong shared the lead in the women's Group B.

Korea beat Sweden 3-0 and Hong Kong beat the United States 3-0.

The United States is 0-5. Japan is 4-1 after edging the Netherlands 3-2. France is 3-2, beating Romania 3-1.

A total of 16 preliminary matches were scheduled for later Friday.

Groups A and B have eight teams each. After the preliminar-

ies, the top six teams plus the top two teams from lower groups move up for the final round starting Saturday.

The 13-day tournament is hosting players from 109 countries.

The Swedes were unhappy with some aspects of their performance.

"We still have not got it right," admitted coach Anders Thunstrom.

England coach Don Parker said: "We are delighted to be unbeaten at this stage. The win over Yugoslavia should mean we will finish in the top four in the group which should give us an easier first round match."

French launch America's Cup challenge boat

SAN DIEGO, California (R) — The French syndicate Le Defi Francais officially launched their new America's Cup class yacht Ville De Paris in San Diego Bay Thursday and began testing for next month's World Championships.

The French challenger will be one of nine boats from six nations competing in the May 4-11 championships that will serve as a prelude to next year's America's Cup and provide the first real test of the new America's Cup class yachts under race conditions.

The 75-foot (23-metre) Ville de Paris arrived in San Diego last Thursday aboard a giant Soviet Antonov 124 cargo plane — a late delivery that fuelled speculation that the French might not be ready in time for the championships.

The French syndicate have sold their second boat to the American Defence Syndicate, but Marc Pajot, 37-year-old skipper of the Ville De Paris, said they plan to give the smaller boat's experience prior to the championships.

The new class of yachts will have a crew of 16 and a 17th place

for an honorary guest crew member.

Asked who will be invited to fill the 17th position, a confident Pajot said: "We have chosen as our racing guest a representative of the town of Sete — the town where the America's Cup will be run once the French team has won it."

Spain joins cup fray

Meanwhile Spain will compete in the international America's Cup class world championships next month in a boat borrowed from New Zealand, the America's Cup Organising Committee (ACOC) announced Tuesday.

The Spanish Challenge Syndicate, Desafio Espana, successfully negotiated the deal to borrow one of New Zealand's three new America's Cup class boats after their own programme suffered a serious setback earlier this year when the keel of their yacht broke off during trials in Spain.

Desafio Espana's second boat will not be completed in time for the World Championships.

"We are pleased to add Spain, a first-time cup challenger, to the

first competition for the international America's Cup class," said Tom Ehman, ACOC executive vice-president and general manager.

Before the deal could be finalized, however, the two syndicates had to secure permission from the

U.S. State Department, as well as the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services. New Zealand brought its three boats into U.S. waters under a temporary importation bond under which they could not be chartered to other interests without official exemption.

Bad luck dogs Sainz in warm-up for Corsica Rally

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — Bad luck continued to dog world champion Carlos Sainz as he prepared for the Tour of Corsica Rally, his sights set on stopping Frenchman Didier Auriol securing a record fourth successive victory.

The Spaniard, who failed to finish for the first time in more than a year when mechanical problems forced him out of the recent Safari Rally, blew an engine three times as he tried to reconnoitre the route.

"I don't believe it," he said. "I haven't been able to do anything. It's been ages since I had so many problems before a rally."

Toyota driver Sainz, who cited Lancia's Auriol as his main rival, is well aware he will have to be at his best to beat the French on their favourite surface when the rally starts Sunday.

French drivers have dominated the four-day Mediterranean island tour, the only World Championship rally held entirely on tarmac, winning it for the last six years.

Auriol, winner in 1988 in Ford and with Lancia in the last two years, is suitably confident. "Win it a fourth time in a row? Why not? I am ready to fight for it, anyway," he said.

Sainz, current World Championship leader, finished second last year after giving Auriol a tough battle.

He will benefit from the absence of Lancia drivers Juha Kankkunen of Finland and Massimo Biasion of Italy, respectively

second and third in this season's standings. Neither feels at ease on the fast Corsican roads.

After four events, the positions in the World Rally Championship are tight with just two points separating Sainz and Kankkunen. The same goes for the constructors' standings, where Toyota have a three-point advantage over Lancia.

Auriol, currently sixth after a disappointing start this season, badly needs a win to stay in the race for the title. "You need a lot of experience to do well on these roads," he said. "Sainz will be my most dangerous opponent."

French hope Francois Delecour, the revelation of this year's Monte Carlo Rally, said he was determined to win.

"I would like to consolidate after doing well in Monte Carlo, even if Didier will start as hot favourite," said Delecour, who finished third in the winter classic, his first World Championship race.

He was leading before the last timed stage hut, with victory in sight, suffered mechanical trouble and the anguish of seeing Sainz and Biasion pass to take first and second places.

Some 10s cars start on the Corsica tour, which includes 625 kilometres of timed stages.

Among the favourites will be Corsican Yves Loubet in a Lancia, starting for the 14th time.

Loubet knows the route by heart and has often led the provisional standings in previous years without ever being able to win in front of his home fans.

Patrese ready to prove experience really counts

IMOLA, Italy (R) — Riccardo Patrese, the unofficial "senior citizen" of the Formula One circuit, says his age can be something of an advantage on the racetrack.

The Italian, subjected to some good-natured jokes in the paddock, celebrated his 37th birthday while testing for Williams at Imola last week ahead of the San Marino Grand Prix.

He was baked a giant cake and lofted on the shoulders of the other drivers to take the weight off his legs.

But, as Patrese looked ahead to the 211th Grand Prix start of his career at the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari Sunday, he was unconcerned about the record books and his age.

The latter, he says, is an advantage to him and to British team mate Nigel Mansell, who, at 36, is another F1 veteran.

Formula One is an increasingly complex science. Each team's garages are full of computers these days. Experience, then, is indispensable to anyone who wants to understand all the parameters, in F1," he said.

"The six drivers who won races last year were all over 30 and that is no accident. The only danger with age is the loss of motivation."

"I am in peak physical condition. I drive one of the best cars in the field. I feel I have never been closer to achieving my dream of becoming world champion. In those circumstances, I just don't see how I could possibly lose my motivation."

Twelve months ago, Patrese, who commands respect and affection and emotional his colleagues and in Italy, pulled off the most spectacular and emotional triumph of his long career when he won the 1990 San Marino Prix at Imola.

It was only his third victory and he cherished the moment. "It was a very special day," he said, recalling the tearful triumph in front of a vast cheering crowd.

"It was a day I had waited a long time for. I hadn't had a victory in Formula One since the 1983 South African Grand Prix, seven years before. As a bonus, I was lucky enough to win at Imola in front of my home crowd."

Imola, in a way, is my track. I live in Padua, just 140 kilometres away, and it is also one of my three favourite circuits with Spa and Suzuka."

"And of course I also wanted revenge on Imola last year. In 1985, I went off four laps from the end while in the lead. That is the sort of thing a driver doesn't easily forget."

"So last year at Imola I felt I

was reaping the reward for all the work I've put in during my career to get back to the top while I wasn't driving as competitive a car as the Williams."

Patrese believes he has his best chance of a genuine challenge for the drivers' title this year in the new Williams FW14, equipped with semi-automatic transmission. But, he says, it does not save him much time in gear changes.

"If it does, it is hardly noticeable," he said.

"On the other hand you have better control of the car as you have both hands on the wheel all the time. And you can change gear in the middle of a corner which is a risky thing to do with a manual gearbox. It really is the way to go."

And his record 210 Grand Prix starts?

"Let me be perfectly honest about this," he said. "It really does not mean a lot to me. I'll think about all these sort of records when I look back over my F1 years at the end of my career. But that day is not here yet."

"I don't come into F1 with thoughts of beating the record number of Grand Prix starts, but to be world champion and 14 years on I have not changed."

"So 210 Grand Prix today, 211 tomorrow. It really does not matter to me. I see no particular cause for pride in having spent 14 years in Formula One."

"But what I am proud of is that today I drive for one of the best three teams in the field."

"That is what matters to me."



Nigel Mansell, another Formula One veteran

McEnroe boosts U.S. squad

NEW YORK (R) — American Davis Cup team members have said that the addition of John McEnroe virtually eliminated any chance that Spain might upset the defending champions in their quarter-final tie in June.

"Now the team we have weakens their team dramatically," said Brad Gilbert, who led the United States past Mexico in a surprisingly tough first round tie in Mexico City last month.

"If it had been me with somebody like (Richey) Reneberg or (David) Wheaton the Spanish could say maybe we have a shot," Gilbert said. "Now with me and Mac, they've got to cringe a little."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 27, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Paying strict attention to the many growing details of your life that are not just the way you would really like to have them begin to pay big dividends for you and your closest associates.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Finish dealing with friends in the morning that are important to you both, then the evening requires much care to avoid some friction.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get rid of some outside duty in the morning and then avoid that argument with a friend that you have been wanting to have very much.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is the time for you to get done early whatever is vital to your progress and then make a point to do nothing to injure your reputation.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have it in your power now to get some new ideas that can be very good for you but considerable work should be done before putting in motion.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You now find that the early morning is good for you to show you are the one who will cooperate with partners, do the actual project later.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make some headway towards the various partnership interests facing you by doing what others

desire of you without expecting them to understand.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the moment for which you have been waiting when you can shun the world of outside activities and get all of those chores to be done behind you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There are a number of pleasures today that attract you and its alright for you to enjoy them so long as you make no demands on anyone else.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your urge for more harmony at home is wise and a good omen and works out well if you do not start any arguments with any close associates.

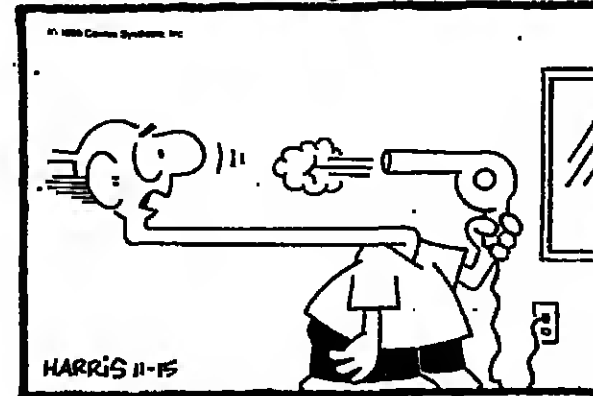
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is that moment for you to be sure that you do understand why your usual allies are acting as they do by studying their true motives.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have some pretty heavy expenses and you'd be wise not to incur anymore or you can find that most everyone will lose respect of your common sense.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you have a sort of discontent which is not at all in accordance with the things you wish to do this day so be very objective with ideas.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Now THAT'S a powerful blow dryer!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Jeff Heintz and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAPAG

ROFOL

PUDETY

WEDDEG

Answer: THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: FORCE JOKER EXHORT PACKET

Answer: A witch who's skilled at her profession might be called this — A "HEX-PERT!"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FORCE JOKER EXHORT PACKET

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(Answers tomorrow)

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Gascoigne transfer not imminent

ROME (R) — Italian first division club Lazio denied Friday they were on the point of signing England's Paul Gascoigne. "We're not close to a signature. It won't be today," Lazio's sports director Carlo Regalia said. Asked whether directors of Gascoigne's London club Tottenham were in Rome, Regalia said: "I have no idea. So much has been said about this (transfer), that it's on, that it's off. We would rather not talk about it," he said. The Roman club, midway down the Italian first division, offered Tottenham 16 billion lire (\$15 million) for the midfielder last month.

Gillespie pulls out of Scotland squad

LONDON (R) — Liverpool defender Gary Gillespie has pulled out of Scotland's European Championship Group 2 soccer qualifier in San Marino next week. Gillespie, restored to the Liverpool side since Graeme Souness succeeded Kenny Dalglish as manager, has a hamstring injury. The 30-year-old defender, who has won just 13 caps due to a succession of injury problems, has played only once for Scotland this season.

French AGS team sold

IMOLA, Italy (R) — The French AGS Formula One motor racing team has been taken over by Italians Patricio Cantu and Gabriele Rafanelli and Stefan Hohnssohn replaced as the second driver. The team had been struggling financially this season and had gone into voluntary receivership in France only two weeks ago by former owner Cyril de Rouvre. A statement from the team said Cantu and Rafanelli had bought a majority of the shares with immediate effect and were in charge of the team for this weekend's San Marino Grand Prix. As a result of the takeover, Swedish driver Stefan Johansson has been dropped by the team after only two races. His place is taken by Italian Fabrizio Barbazza, 28, a former Italian Formula three favourite from Milan who has also competed in Indy-car racing in the United States.

Manchester selected as Olympic candidate

LONDON (R) — Manchester was selected as Britain's candidate to host the 2,000 Olympics. The British Olympic Association voted unanimously in favour of Manchester after hearing final submissions from that city and from London. Other declared bids for the games have come from Sydney, Peking and Berlin. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will make its decision on the host city in Monte Carlo in September 1993.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J7 ♣KQ9872 ♦AJ93 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J7 ♣KQ9872 ♦AJ93 ♠6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K3 ♣AQ1084 ♦AQ8 ♠AQ6
The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J74 ♣98 ♦AK54 ♠J9762
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

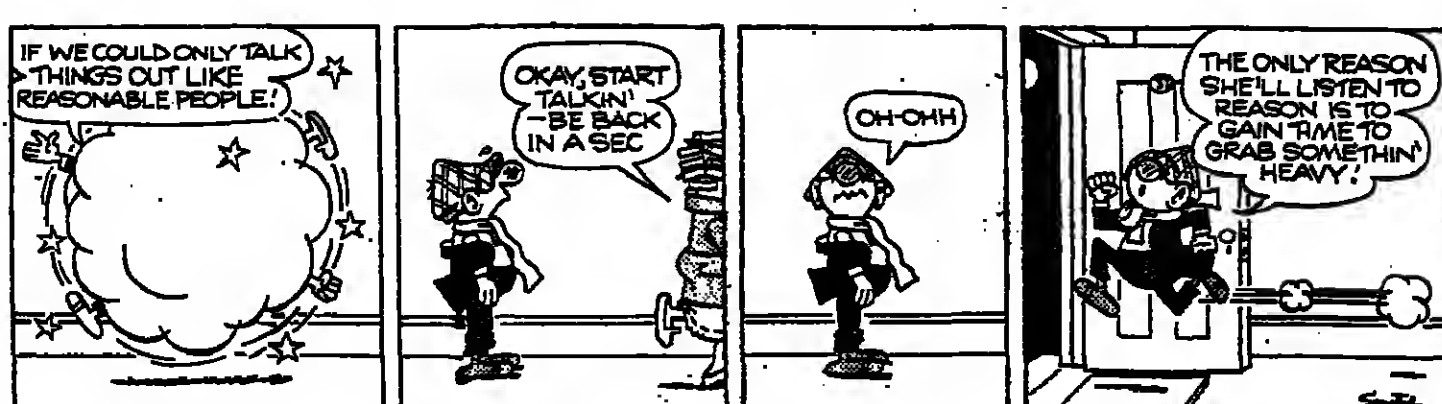
Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A104 ♣Void ♦KQ63 ♠A109542
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ102 ♣K87 ♦6 ♠K10765
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, April 25, 1991					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	682.0	686.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	494.0	497.0
Pound Sterling	1156.0	1162.9	Dutch guilder	346.0	348.1
Deutschemark	389.7	392.0	Swedish crown	109.5	110.0
Swiss franc	464.9	467.7	Italian lira (for 100)	52.9	53.2
French franc	115.6	116.5	Belgian franc (for 10)	189.5	190.6

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:			
	April 20-24	April 6-10	
Daily average	JD 2,566,074	JD 865,524	
Total volume	JD 12,839,568	JD 4,327,618	
No. of contracts	7,325,591	2,530,881	
No. of contracts	7,613	3,662	

Sectoral trading:

	JD 8,915,456	JD 3,159,738
Industrial	(69.5%)	(73.8%)
Financial	JD 2,040,591	JD 800,446
Service	(13.6%)	(18.5%)
Insurance	(1.4%)	(7.7%)
Share price index	134.5	129.8
No. of companies	65	68
Share movement (rise)	49	23
(Decline)	10	39
(Stable)	6	6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6872/82	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1514/19	Canadian dollar
	1.7510/17	Deutschemark
	1.9650/60	Dutch guilders
	1.4728/35	Swiss francs
	35.89/98	Belgian francs
	5.9020/70	French francs
	1291/1292	Italian lire
	137.95/138.05	Japanese yen
	6.2375/25	Swedish crowns
	6.8020/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.6850/6900	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	354.00/354.50	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed firmer after sluggish trade. The Nikkei was up 84.82 points at 26,123.68.

SYDNEY — Support from U.S. investors, based on hopes of lower inflation, boosted the All Ordinaries index 19.4 points to 1537.8, its highest close since August.

HONG KONG — Prices ended higher, mostly on the strength of Cheung Kong covered warrants. The Hang Seng index gained 31.42 points to finish at 3,625.80.

SINGAPORE — Profit-taking alternated with bargain-bunting. The Straits Times index gained 4.47 points to 1,558.41.

BOMBAY — A bullish start to the new account triggered profit-taking. The Bombay Stock Exchange index fell 9.95 to 1,286.59.

FRANKFURT — The Dax index gained 3.36 points to 1,623.81, up for the third day in a row. During the day it touched a 1991 high of 1,632.47. Dealers said market sentiment was good and expected prices to rise further next week.

ZURICH — Several first-quarter reports and a speech by Swiss National Bank President Markus Lusser failed to enliven a slow market. The SPI index lost 2.9 points to 1,076.

PARIS — Favourable ratings by at least three stockbrokers stirred interest in tyre maker Michelin which gained 7.50 francs to 91.60 in extraordinary volume. Other trade was listless. The CAC-40 index lost 2.34 points to 1,774.67.

LONDON — The FTSE index lost 10.8 to 2471.3, April's lowest close. Pessimism focussed on the weekend G-7 meeting and Thursday's local council elections.

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks are in a consolidation phase. Analysts expect no break out until the Fed eases interest rates or the economy is clearly recovering. At 1553 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were down 0.5 to 2,920.54.

U.S. audit said to dispute value of bank insurance fund

NEW YORK (R) — The senior U.S. auditor has found that the fund that protects bank deposits is in worse shape than has been reported and may be worth only about half of the \$8.4 billion regulators had calculated, the New York Times has reported.

The newspaper quoted William Seidman, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), who said the General Accounting Office (GAO) annual audit of the fund would show it might be worth only about \$4 to \$5 billion.

The fund was created in 1934 after many banks collapsed in the depression and is financed through bank premiums. It protects depositors when institutions fail.

According to the Times, unaudited figures presented by the FDIC at the end of 1990 indicated it was worth about \$8.4 billion.

It said the FDIC stood behind the \$8.4 billion figure, which took into account the expected \$2.5 billion cost of the rescue of the Bank of New England and two other banks.

The Times said Seidman had explained that the GAO had come up with a substantially lower net worth for the fund because it had found much higher liabilities.

It had concluded that many more U.S. banks were already effectively insolvent than the FDIC had found.

Seidman said the FDIC had tried to persuade the GAO auditors to revise their results, the Times said.

The Times quoted Seidman as saying the GAO figures could add a significant impetus to Congress to act more quickly to address the problems of the fund and the U.S. banking industry.

ABC report shows rise in Arab oil, condensate production last year

MANAMA (R) — Crude oil and condensate production in the Arab World grew by three per cent in 1990 to 16.8 million barrels per day (b/d), according to a report published here.

A quarterly report published by the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) said the Arab World's oil and condensate production in 1989 was estimated at 16.3 million b/d.

Saudi Arabia's oil and condensate output was estimated to have jumped by 30 per cent in July-December, 1990, to an average of 7.3 million b/d compared with the same period of 1989.

By the year end the kingdom's production was significantly over eight million b/d, the report said.

The surge in production was achieved by bringing into play previously mothballed capacity, a process entailing considerable financial outlays.

"If some or all of the new capacity is eventually to be shut down, an immediate concern of the Saudi authorities will be recovering the costs of adding this capacity," the report said.

"Consequently, this consideration will have an important influence on the country's oil production in the near future making it likely that second half of 1990 output levels will be maintained," it added.

Saudi Arabia has nearly doubled its official OPEC quota to cover the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil production, estimated at four million b/d.

The report said Riyadh was not alone among Arab OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) countries to raise oil production to their highest levels in recent years.

It said the output of Algeria, Libya and Abu Dhabi emirate, in the United Arab Emirates, also rose by over 10 per cent during 1990.

"Syria (has) achieved a comparable rate of oil production growth while Tunisia saw a fall of seven per cent in its output," the report said.

"The overall result was, in any case, to increase the Arab World's share of world oil production to 27 per cent from 26 per cent in 1989," it concluded.

Expatriates' accounts cleared for limited transfers to Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Weeks of intense contacts and intervention by the Ministry of Labour have resulted in agreement by Kuwaiti banks to allow withdrawals and transfers to Jordan of up to 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars every month by Jordanians and Palestinians who left the emirate after the Iraqi invasion on Aug. 2.

"We have received instructions from the National Bank of Kuwait that withdrawals and foreign transfers of amounts up to 4,000 dinars per month per account are permitted," said a senior official at one of Jordan's leading banks. Withdrawals could be converted into any European currency and transferred to Jordanian banks, he added.

The National Bank of Kuwait, which also appears to be acting as a clearing house for several other banks in the emirate, has devised a special system under which Jordanian and Palestinian account holders have to fill up withdrawal applications through Jordanian banks, the official said.

The Jordanian banks involved in the process include the Arab Bank, the Housing Bank and the Jordan-Kuwait Bank, banking officials said.

"The role of non-Jordanian and non-Arab banks is limited in the process in the initial stage, and probably the system would be expanded soon to permit transactions through them," said one of the officials.

At present, in view of sparse communications with Kuwait, banks have to depend on courier systems to get the documents across the emirate and the withdrawal and transfer process takes about two to three weeks, the official said.

"The time is expected to be shortened once direct communications are restored in Kuwait," he said.

All withdrawals and deposits in Kuwait bank accounts during the seven-month occupation of the emirate are totally disregarded, and banks deal with the account holder on the basis of balances in accounts at closing business hours on Aug. 1, 1990, the official said.

The introduction of the system comes as a watershed for the tens of thousands of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates who have returned home almost penniless after being forced to leave behind their savings and deposit accounts in Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion.

Kuwait authorities permitted monthly withdrawals up to 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars from bank accounts four weeks after the end of the Gulf war and the return of the emir in early March, but the account holder or a duly authorised, immediate family member had to be present in the emirate and transfers abroad were not permitted.

This had posed an insurmountable problem for many who left Kuwait with all their family member since Aug. 2, particularly that none of them was permitted back into the emirate despite valid residence permits.

Most of them, despite having thousands of dinars in their accounts in Kuwait, had been living with relatives and many depended on relief offered by voluntary organisations.

Banking officials said the Ministry of Labour played a major role in setting up the withdrawal and transfer process. The ministry has established a special department to handle the affairs of expatriates returning from Kuwait and other Gulf states and have been collecting information and data from those who held accounts in Kuwaiti banks.

Expatriates who maintained accounts in foreign banks, mostly in Europe, were able to resume operations in those accounts last month when most countries lifted a freeze on all accounts of residents in Kuwait. The freeze was imposed immediately after the Iraqi invasion as part of the international sanctions imposed on Baghdad.

No definite figure is available on the actual amount held in deposit and saving accounts of Jordanian expatriates in Kuwait. Some reports have put the figure around \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion.

A report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ES/WA) — a United Nations agency — estimated that Jordanian expatriates lost about \$4 billion in bank accounts and assets in Kuwait.

India to hold international trade fair in November

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — The Eleventh India International Trade Fair (IITF) will be held from Nov. 14-24, 1991 in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

An analysis of the last IITF held in 1990 indicated that the fair attracted 50,000 business visitors. The visitors included presidents and vice presidents of organisations, managing partners and managing directors, proprietors, opinion makers, general managers of different disciplines, export personnel, marketing personnel, plant technicians and representatives of government and financial institutions.

In addition, there were 2.5 million general visitors. 76 per cent of the exhibitors in the last fair felt that they had attained their objectives. 72 per cent were satisfied with the quality of exhibition arrangements. 86 per cent of the exhibitors wished to come back for a repeat participation in IITF'91.

The IITF has turned out as a centre not only for the spot business but also as a place where national and international buyers and sellers and representatives of business organisations from all over the world interact and draw up long term business plans.

As a source for the supply of a wide range of products and services, the fair provides a cost-effective forum for launching new products, identifying new areas of economic cooperation, industrial collaboration and joint ventures especially amongst the developing countries.

India's import policy has been considerably liberalised and procedure simplified to facilitate participants from abroad to sell their products at the fair as well as consider participating in new ventures of their interest in India.

In fact, IITF'91 offers vast business opportunities for promoting foreign trade and joint collaborations amongst the participating countries.

The scope of display at IITF'91 will cover a wide range of products, technologies and services. However, there will be special display on following sectors of industry:

- Agricultural machinery, equipment and technology
- Fertilizer manufacturing machinery, equipment and technology
- Chemical inputs for agriculture

Participation in this fair will be open to manufacturers of equipment and suppliers, importers and exporters of products, services and technologies, product consultants and indenting agents. Participation contribution will be \$100 per square metre for covered bare space.

The IITF'91 is expected to have participation from more than 500 companies represented either in their national pavilions or individually in the international sector. In the national sector over 2,500 firms in private and public sector will be projecting their best products and services in the special displays as well as general displays.

A series of seminars on technical and commercial subject are planned during the fair to provide interaction.

'Arabs lost \$438 billion as a result of Gulf war'

WASHINGTON, USIA — The economic causes and effects of the Gulf crisis were discussed by a panel of economists during the annual Middle East conference of the Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) at Georgetown University, held here recently.

"Syria (has) achieved a comparable rate of oil production growth while Tunisia saw a fall of seven per cent in its output," the report said.

"The overall result was, in any case, to increase the Arab World's share of world oil production to 27 per cent from 26 per cent in 1989," it concluded.

Kidar, in a presentation on "The Business Outlook in the Gulf After the War," said the cost of rebuilding Kuwait is difficult to estimate, but "is unlikely to be less than \$60,000 million — some estimates put it as high as \$100,000 million."

Kidar said that based on his own fact-finding tour of Kuwait, "clearly the destruction is not confined to Kuwait's oil wells and refineries." Highways, ports, the airport, public buildings, hotels, privately owned factories and trading premises have also been extensively destroyed, he said.

"Fortunately, because of its previous wise investment policies, Kuwait has substantial foreign assets on which it can draw to finance reconstruction of its infrastructure and its oil wells," Kidar pointed out. "Kuwait's wisdom in maintaining foreign earning assets is a living example which cannot be overstated."

He said Kuwait's massive reconstruction needs will provide a strong stimulus to economic activity. A further stimulus will come from the intention of the countries of the region to take on a greater responsibility for their own defence, Kidar said. "The creation of a regional security structure is a target, backed up by a substantial arms package from the U.S. Saudi Arabia is also expected to increase its own defence expenditure over the next few years."

He said the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation, a military manufacturing partnership between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, has also been revived and is expected to receive an infusion of funds from the Gulf states to manufacture or assemble weapons and weapons systems.

"All this suggests that the region is likely to witness a sustained burst of economic activity in the next few years," Kidar said.

The Gulf region is a major source of the world's oil and gas, he said, and "two thirds of the world's known oil resources are to be found in the region; this ensures, for as long as we can look into the future, substantial income and wealth in the Gulf."

Kidar said the war also inflicted extensive damage to the region's banking system. "All told, the flight of bank deposits from the Gulf amounted to at least \$20,000 million and was probably in excess of this," he said.

"What is required in the region is more investment banks," Kidar said, noting that investment banks have played a crucial role in the development of the United States, Britain, Japan and Europe. "It is clear that the Gulf requires the services of such institutions today," he said.

Asked about prospects for the rebuilding of Iraq, Kidar said that "the problem of Iraq's credit is not minor."

Iran urges private sector to invest in petrochemicals

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, easing the state's control of the economy, is seeking private Iranian investors for petrochemical projects, Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh has said.

Iran is the second biggest oil producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), but its petrochemical industry is underdeveloped.

Azadeh, quoted by Tehran radio, said the ministry would back the private sector with expert personnel and know-how.

The minister did not list the projects open to the private sector, but said they would use domestic raw materials and mainly serve the Iranian market although they would not be barred from exporting their products.

Petrochemicals are among "mother industries" declared under state control in Iran's constitution.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's government is also encouraging private investment in mines, heavy industries and other fields and says it would sell off a number of factories nationalised after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

A five-year plan to 1994 envisages \$4 billion in hard currency investment in the petrochemical industry, more than half of it in foreign credit.

Total annual output is to rise to five million tonnes from three million tonnes last year.

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Bomb explodes in Estonian capital, Communist Party building damaged

MOSCOW (AP) — A bomb exploded Friday near a Communist Party office in the secessionist Estonian Republic, damaging the building and nearby homes but causing no casualties, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported.

It was the fourth such attack this year in Estonian capital of Tallinn, TASS reported. Most of the others were aimed at Russian political and public organisation buildings, TASS said.

The explosion came a day after Soviet troops seized at least a dozen buildings in the neighbouring Baltic Republic of Lithuania, including technical schools, a clothing factory, a hotel and a sports complex, the Lithuanian parliament reported.

Troops left one of the buildings, a military recreation club run by Lithuania, at about 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) Friday, Simas Argudas, of the Parliament Press Office told the Associated Press by telephone. They vandalised the building and took equipment, Argudas said.

The troops said they were carrying out Soviet Defence Minister Dmitri Yazov's orders to guard the ministry's property, the independent Elta News Agency reported.

Argudas said he did not know the status of the other occupied buildings. No other injuries were reported, the parliament said.

The news agency said a Soviet soldier guarding the Vilnius Radio and Television building, occupied by Soviet troops last January, was accidentally shot to death while at his post Thursday.

Elta quoted police chief Vytautas Leibus as saying the soldier was shot in the head by a single bullet from a Kalashnikov automatic rifle. "It was an accident," he said, adding that it was unclear if the soldier shot himself or another soldier fired the shot.

Leibus said Soviet troops prevented Vilnius police from approaching the body and that the investigation would be carried out by military authorities.

Tensions have been running high in Lithuania since the January crackdown by Soviet troops in the Baltics, which left at least 22 dead. Troops have occupied buildings sporadically for about a year, trying to hamper Lithuania's drive for independence.

Soldiers Thursday broke into buildings in at least eight Lithuanian cities, including Marijampole, Alytus, Siauliai, Klaipeda, Panevezys, Plunge, Kyvskas and Palukne, according to the parliament.

The Soviet army is "seizing everything in its way," Lithuanian parliamentarian deputy Algimantas Norvilas told to fel-

low lawmakers. "This is characteristic of the Soviet army."

Last Friday, Soviet troops seized and shut down a Lithuanian customs post on the Baltic republic's border with Byelorussia.

To a separate development, strikers in the western republic of Byelorussia returned to work Friday, after Mikhail Gorbachev agreed to concessions with nine republics in exchange for a call to end crippling walkouts.

The Soviet president's chief rival, Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, Thursday called the agreement a "major victory" for the republics.

The agreement also was a victory for Gorbachev, as he used it to bolster his defence against Communist Party hardliners who tried but failed Thursday to oust him from his position as the party's general secretary.

The radical newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda said Friday that Gorbachev "showed his manoeuvrability" at the session. Another boldly bearded, "Gambling on the resignation."

Thousands of workers in the Byelorussian capital of Minsk had been on strike since Tuesday, demanding the resignation of national and republic leaders and a special session of their legislature.

They suspended the strike Friday until May 21, when the legislature's regular session begins, re-public legislator and strike committee member Igor Geremichuk said by telephone from Minsk.

A labour federation called on its members throughout the Russian Republic to stage a one-hour strike Friday. But the group, a reconstituted Communist trade union, is regarded with suspicion by the miners and other labour activists.

Gorbachev Wednesday announced an agreement with nine republic chiefs, including Russia's Yeltsin, who represents by far the largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

Gorbachev promised new elections for both the Soviet parliament and presidency, and the republic leaders joined him in urging an end to strikes.

The agreement did not say whether the presidency would be held in a popular election. Gorbachev has never faced the voters directly and, under the current constitution, would not have to do so until 1995.

Yeltsin — chairman of the presidium of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet — described the deal to Russian lawmakers Thursday as "a major victory" for the republics, TASS reported.

Greek terrorists claim attack against strike breaking tugboat

ATHENS (AP) — Greece's deadliest terrorist group claimed responsibility for an explosion that sank a Greek tugboat Friday belonging to a company which has refused to participate in a port workers' strike.

Police said that an anonymous caller claiming to be a member of the urban November 17 terrorist organisation phoned the Athens daily Eleftherotipia to warn of the impending attack against the tugboat.

There were no crew members aboard the tugboat when the bomb exploded after midnight. The tugboat was tied up at a pier in Piraeus Harbour near Athens' main port of Piraeus, a police official who asked for anonymity said.

Tugboat crews have been striking for higher pay and increased benefits on and off for the past month. The Karapiperis Company however, has refused to heed the strike call and continued to service merchant ships with their tugboats.

The elusive November 17 group has claimed responsibility for killing 16 people including U.S. embassy officials and prominent Greeks since 1975. It also bombed several private buses in February hired by the government to break a three-month

public bus company strike. No one was injured in those attacks.

It was the second terrorist attack in Greece within a week. Seven people including six Greeks were killed last Friday by a powerful blast that ripped through the ground floor of a building in the southwestern port city of Patras. Police claim the seventh person, 26-year-old Palestinian student Ahmad Al Hashikhi, was killed when the bomb he was carrying went off prematurely.

Over 50 people including Palestinian students and Greeks, have been taken in for questioning in the ongoing investigation.

Kidnapped French priest released in Philippines

COTABATO, Philippines (R) — A French Roman Catholic missionary held by kidnappers for 30 days was released unharmed in the southern Philippines Friday, a church spokesman said.

Father Yves Caroff, 66, looked thin and haggard after being held captive by a gang of kidnappers on the southern island of Mindanao.

"I am sorry I caused you all this trouble," he was quoted as telling a Filipino priest who met him as he was released. Caroff was on the verge of tears as he was handed over, the spokesman said.

Church officials said no ransom was paid.

Caroff, who had grown a beard during captivity, was freed close to a deadline set by the military for his release.

The military had threatened an assault against the hideout of the kidnappers, who have abducted 29 people, most of them Chinese-Filipino businessmen, since September.

The French priest was moved around the hills and remote towns in Maguindanao province in the southern Philippines to prevent a rescue by troops, church and local officials said.

Caroff was visibly tired when released, the church spokesman said. He was taken to the Catholic-run Notre Dame University in Cotabato, some 890 kilometres south of Manila.

Six armed men belonging to a gang allegedly led by Commander Tora-Tora grabbed Caroff at gunpoint on March 27 before the priest reached his parish at south UPI, Maguindanao.

Caroff is the 27th person freed by a kidnapper gang that had targeted rich families in Cotabato, forcing several to flee the province.

At least two people are still being held by the gang, which is believed to number about 70 and is composed of former Muslim separatist rebels, bandits and dismissed soldiers.

Up to 12 million pesos (\$430,000) in ransom has been paid by wealthy families in the area to secure the freedom of people abducted by the gang, officials said.

Meanwhile suspected Muslim separatist rebels killed a government soldier, and unidentified gunmen seriously wounded a police captain in separate gun battles in the southern Philippines, police said Friday.

Police Captain Pangalawan Anpatua was hit when seven gunmen blocked his vehicle and opened fire Thursday afternoon outside the southern city of Cagayan de Oro some 780 kilometres of Manila.

Endeavour brings shuttle fleet back to full strength

PALMDALE, California (AP) — A new chapter of the U.S. space programme began Thursday with the unveiling of Endeavour, the space shuttle built to replace the ill-fated Challenger.

Endeavour joining Atlantis, Columbia and Discovery in the U.S. space shuttle fleet.

It is scheduled to soar into orbit in the spring of 1992. Although it looks almost exactly like the other shuttles, Endeavour incorporates all the improvements made after the loss of Challenger and its crew of seven on Jan. 28, 1986.

"It's the best vehicle yet," said Janet Dean, spokeswoman for Endeavour's maker, Rockwell International.

Endeavour was unveiled at a rollout ceremony Thursday be-

fore an audience of thousands of Rockwell and NASA employees at Air Force Plant 42, where all the shuttles were assembled.

The orbiter is the first new shuttle to enter the fleet since 1985 when Atlantis was completed. Former President Ronald Reagan authorised the replacement for Challenger in 1987.

Built at a cost of around \$2 billion, it may be the last of the stubby-winged space trucks. Although a seven-shuttle fleet was once envisioned, President George Bush's administration included no money for a fifth shuttle in its 1992 budget proposal.

Much of Endeavour was constructed from a set of structural spare parts that were ordered up in advance of the Challenger tragedy.

Sri Lankan troops break rebel siege of naval base, 32 die

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan government troops, using air and sea support, have broken a month-long siege by separatist Tamil rebels of an island naval base, killing 26 guerrillas in a day of fighting, military sources said Friday.

Six government soldiers were also killed and 20 wounded Thursday in the battle for Karainagar Naval Base on the island of Karaitivu off the northern coast of Sri Lanka, the sources said.

Security forces also captured a vital causeway. Poonalali, that links Karaitivu with mainland Jaffna, the stronghold of the separatists who are fighting for an independent homeland.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been attacking security forces' bases constantly on the Jaffna peninsula, the sources said.

Earlier this week they said that more than 1,000 rebels and 170 government troops had been killed over the past month or so during offensives launched by the government.

Defence Ministry Secretary Cyril Ranatunga said Thursday an indefinite curfew had been imposed in Jaffna.

"We have had a rain of mortars fired into our camps," he told reporters.

The military sources said a large number of rebel bunkers were destroyed. Several vehicles, bags full of anti-personnel mines, rifle-grenades, ammunition and uniforms were captured after the siege was broken.

Security forces mounted a simultaneous offensive in nearby Kayts Island where an army detachment had come under regular rebel fire. Details of this operation were not available.

"The curfew is still on and the operations are continuing," a military officer said.

Karainagar is the main naval base for patrol boats trying to prevent Tigers smuggling men and arms across the narrow Palk Strait between Jaffna and south India.

Raytheon fires back in defence of Patriot missile

BOSTON (R) — Raytheon has rushed to the defence of its Patriot missile, saying that recent criticism had unfairly tarnished the reputation of what was once heralded as the star of the Gulf war.

The Lexington, Massachusetts, company, America's fifth-largest defence contractor, said it felt compelled to respond to criticism of the Patriot, its largest single programme for the past two years providing a total of \$2.5 billion in revenues.

During the Gulf war, the Patriot was widely hailed for its alleged ability to knock Iraqi Scud missiles from the skies.

In recent weeks, however, it has been criticised for causing as much damage as it saved, as debris from both missiles came to earth.

Raytheon said testimony before Congress, editorials in major newspapers and news articles along this line had "unfairly denigrated" the Patriot and its crews, adding that much of the criticism "has been raised by people with other agendas."

"The fact is that the Patriot performed extremely well," Raytheon said, asserting a nearly 90 per cent success rate in destroying Scuds fired at Saudi Arabian targets and an approximately 50 per cent success rate in Israel.

At the Yokosuka Naval Base south of Tokyo, a naval band played the martial "BattleShip March" women wept on the quayside and sailors waved their caps in salute.

From the bow of each ship flew the traditional red-sun-and-rays naval ensign, unchanged for half a century.

But the vessels putting to sea were not battleships and cruisers but two wooden-hulled 490-hp but two wooden-hulled 490-tonne minesweepers and the 8,150-tonne oiler/supply ship Tokiwa.

Several hours later, two similar minesweepers and another supply ship left ports near Hiroshima and Nagasaki in western Japan to rendezvous with them.

The flotilla of six vessels heading for the Middle East was bent not on aggression but on helping clear the mines sown before and during the Gulf war.

Nevertheless, the Japanese government's decision to contribute to the post-war Gulf clean-up operations was a controversial one.

Tokyo, mindful of how easily it can alarm the Asian countries



Nelson Mandela

Mandela holds De Klerk to deadline on violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela said Friday he was sticking to a May 9 deadline for calling off power-sharing talks with President F.W. De Klerk unless South Africa's white government acted to end township violence.

But he said he had not ruled out meeting De Klerk before the deadline in a bid to settle differences and get preliminary constitutional negotiations back on track.

"Unless the government addresses our demands before May 9, there will be no discussions with them on an all-party conference or a future constitution," Mandela told reporters on his return home from a visit to Britain and Japan.

"But there is nothing to prevent me from seeing De Klerk before May 9. Our policy (of negotiation) will continue until May 9," he said.

Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) has called on the government to sack Defence Minister Magnus Malan and Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok for failing to stop the township warring between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

More than 5,000 blacks have been killed in the fighting in the past four years.

Mandela said the ANC would refuse to attend an all-party summit on violence called by De Klerk for May 24 which Malan and Vlok are to attend.

Mandela said his trip to Japan and Britain had been successful. His meeting with British Prime Minister John Major had been "cordial and very productive," although he said he had differed with Major on the question of anti-apartheid sanctions.

The ANC wants the world to maintain the economic embargo until apartheid has been finally abolished, while Britain says the economic stranglehold should be loosened on De Klerk to reward him for his reform efforts.

Mandela said the ANC would continue to press the government for the release of all political prisoners before an April 30 deadline but he said it would be foolish to believe that the two sides could reach "perfect agreement."

Khmer Rouge agrees to temporary ceasefire

BANGKOK (AP) — Cambodia's largest guerrilla group, the Communist Khmer Rouge, Friday became the last rebel force to agree to a temporary truce beginning May 1 in the 12-year-old war against the Vietnamese-installed government.

The proposal had been accepted by Vietnam, the Vietnamese-installed government and the two non-Communist groups allied with the Khmer Rouge — the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

"We accept the call ... and we hope Vietnam will abide by the call," Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan said after he and leaders of the two other groups met in Bangkok Friday with Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun.

The truce was jointly proposed on Monday by France, Indonesia and the U.N. secretary general, the main brokers in the Cambodian peace process. They said fighting should be halted from May 1, at least until the completion of peace talks expected sometime in May in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The truce is designed to facilitate the talks, which will focus on the Vietnamese-installed government's objections to a U.N. Security Council peace plan. The guerrillas have fully accepted the plan, under which the United Nations would be extensively involved in the country's civil and military affairs in the period before elections.

In further efforts to ease the rule from Delhi ever since.

Under intense pressure from caretaker Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, the election commission, with evident reluctance, announced polls that would give a state government back to Punjab.

Shekhar argued that politicians keeping urging Sikhs to rejoin the political mainstream, but that was impossible if they were denied the right to vote.

Most of the rest of India will hold general elections on May 20, 23 and 26. The later date for Punjab will give the government time to move heavy security into the state.

The election announcement pleased moderate Sikhs and some militant groups.

But the main militant outfits have denounced them as an attempt to legitimise Indian rule of Punjab and called for a boycott. Gandhi's Congress Party said Thursday it refused to put up candidates in Punjab.

Gandhi, who has said Punjab's state polls could produce a "terrorist assembly," says it is impossible to hold free and fair elections in the violent climate pervading the region.

Punjab returns 13 members to the 545-seat parliament. The Congress decision threw into disarray talks between several major parties, some of them bitter rivals elsewhere, aimed at cooperating during the Punjab elections to defeat separatist candidates.

Thousands of people have been killed in the campaign, about 1,700 of them this year, but Chandigarh has been relatively free of violence.

Sharma's killing came two days after the announcement that parliamentary and state assembly elections would be held in Punjab on June 22.

The government of then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi dismissed the state assembly four years ago and Punjab has been under direct

way for the talks. Anand met with the guerrilla leaders Friday and will meet Sunday in Bangkok with Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Cambodian government. Hun Sen currently is in Tokyo for medical tests.

Hun Sen's government has insisted, among other demands, that the U.N. plan include specific measures to prevent the return to power of the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer Rouge massacred hundreds of thousands of people with radical agrarian policies when it ruled Cambodia from 1975 until Vietnam invaded in late 1978 and installed another Communist government.

Fighting has died down with the start of the rainy season in April.

During the dry season, government forces backed by helicopter gunships tried to retake positions in the west lost since a major Vietnamese troops withdrawal from Cambodia in September 1989. The guerrillas used artillery and tanks for the first time.

Meanwhile thousands of Cambodians who fled government helicopter gunship attacks on Khmer Rouge zones are stranded along the Thai frontier with little food, medicine and shelter, Western aid officials said Friday.

About 15,000 to 20,000 people have fled to the border along Thailand's Trat Province since fighting flared last year in western Cambodia, said a U.N. official who demanded anonymity.

Sikh militants kill aide to Punjab governor

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Sikh militants fighting Indian rule killed a close aide to Punjab state Governor O.P. Malhotra Friday, witnesses said.

They said Rattan Lal Sharma, Malhotra's personal assistant, was about to get into his car to drive to the governor's house when four men, two on foot, two on a scooter and all armed with AK-47 assault rifles, approached him.

The pair on foot opened fire, killing Sharma and a male relative who was not immediately identified. All four gunmen fled.

A journalist who watched the whole incident from the window of his apartment said Pabecmen on duty nearby beat a hasty retreat when the firing started and did not return for 15 minutes.

It was a rare strike in Chandigarh, capital of the rich agricultural northern state, given by a decade-old campaign for an independent Sikh homeland the militants call Khalistan, or land of the pure.

Thousands of people have been killed in the campaign, about 1,700 of them this year, but Chandigarh has been relatively free of violence.

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warships sailed in a devastating surprise attack on the U.S. Navy's main base in Hawaii, triggering U.S. entry into World War II.

Meanwhile former Japanese Vice Premier Kiichi Miyazawa urged the United Nations Friday to establish a permanent military force to deal with international crises.

The United Nations should have its own forces consisting of soldiers from member nations, he said.

The soldiers could be trained in their home countries to be mobilised in the event of crisis, he said. Member states would finance actual military operations.

"Our experience from the Gulf war proved that the U.N. can do this," Miyazawa, a notable member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) who resigned in 1988 when linked to the recruit scandal, told a Tokyo seminar.

With such a military organisation at the United Nations, Japan would be able to contribute more to international peace and stability and avoid international criticism for its lack of visible efforts, he said.

Sending Japanese personnel to such U.N. forces would not violate the constitution and other laws, he said.

"Japan could have made a bigger contribution if U.N. forces, not multinational forces, were said."

COLUMN

Brightest object in universe discovered

LONDON (R) — A quasar far brighter than anything else in the universe has been discovered by astronomers at Britain's Royal Greenwich Observatory, the observatory has announced. The quasar emits one quadrillion (1,000,000,000,000) times as much light as the sun and is 12 billion light years away. The discovery was made by a Cambridge University team led by Richard McMahon and Mike Irwin, using a telescope in the Canary Islands.

They said the quasar appeared as a fairly bright object through a large telescope and could help indicate the properties of the universe back to within one billion years of its beginning. Energy from quasars, or quasi-stellar objects, can also be used to study objects between the quasars and Earth.

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The ships that left Friday provided a sharp contrast to the 1941 Operation Eastwards, when 169

Charles, Diana sway to the samba beat

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Succumbing to the hypnotic rhythm of samba music, Britain's Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales bobbed their heads to the beat of the drums at a special performance of Rio de Janeiro's samba schools. On the third day of a five-day visit to Brazil, Prince Charles and his wife Diana attended a dinner in their honour at the Majestic City Palace, which was the British embassy before Brazil's capital was moved from Rio to Brasilia. Rio's mayor presented the princess, clad in an off-the-shoulder dress made of shocking pink lace, with a cacaqua — an Amazon bird — made of amethyst. After dinner the royal couple came out on to the balcony of the palace to watch a scaled-down version of Rio's traditional carnival parade of samba schools. With a full moon overhead and palm trees swaying in the tropical breeze it was not long before a smiling Diana and her husband began to bob their heads and sway slightly to the deafening sound of the drums. Standing between marble pillars and in the company of Rio's left-wing state Governor Leonel Brizola, Diana leaned over the railing, covered in a gold cloth, to view the dazzling parade of 17 schools of dancers. Those expecting a repeat of the prince's last visit to Brazil in 1978 when, still a bachelor, he danced the samba with a mulatta, were disappointed.